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Marconi skip away

BY KEITH GILMOUR

MARCONI is making a strong play for its third successive National Soccer League championship.

Mariani, will be aiming to overcome the wiles of foxy St George and recently resigned Soccerroo coach, Frank Arok.

At least two points from Marconi, and lowly Adelaide Hellas in Adelaide on Sunday would help to keep the Saints (14 points)

consolidated, and Brisbane and Newcastle included if their cases and finances are strong enough.

Meanwhile, the QNSL can look to a searing finish with seven rounds to go.

Six teams are currently in a four-point band at the top of the five.

Sydney Olympic is struggling just out of the top five.

With Sydney Croatia now next on the ladder, their game at St George Stadium on Sunday looms as a battle of the giants.

The sparkling Melbourne Croatia, potentially the most exciting side in the league on their day, have the chance to consolidate their position against Wollongong City at Somers Street, and follow up against Parramatta Melita in Round 21.

This year's rise of over 500 spectators per game is great news for club finances.

At the same time, before jumping handsprings, it should be remembered that the 1989 season was a wash-out in Sydney and Wollongong.

But the run to the barrier over the last seven rounds is full of promise of excitement at either end of the table.

well clear of the only teams below them. Adelaide Hellas on 10 points and Blacktown City 9.

The unannounced word from some QNSL circles is that they won't be unhappy to see one Sydney team relegated.

It would be interesting to be a fly on the wall to hear the view on the Adelaide Hellas predicament.

With the Dr Gordon Bradley report passing in to Australian Soccer Federation hands, it must be expected that the QNSL should be



Marconi skipper Steve Calderan.

The Fairfield-based outfit has a magnificent chance to consolidate its position, in the Round 16 deferred game against St George at Marconi Stadium tonight (Wednesday 7.30pm), followed by Sunday's Round 20 clash with fast-improving Parramatta Melita Eagles at the same venue at 2.30pm.

Marconi have their eyes fixed on winning the league, but in addition they must be victorious in the grand final to claim the honours.

Their youthful coach, Berti



Preston's Soccerroo squad goalkeeper Phil Traianedes goes full stretch to fist the ball, and foil a marauding bunch of Sydney Croatia players at the Croatian Sports Centre on Sunday. The 1-1 draw kept Croatia in contention for the five, with Preston remaining mid-table — Photo: HECTOR CARRASCO.

Heat riles Blanco, Henderson

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

LAST Sunday's switch to 2.30pm kick-offs by the Quit National Soccer League was nothing short of a farce.

Players in the Parramatta Melita Eagles v Blacktown City match had to swallow litres of water from bottles tossed to them from the sidelines, as they bat-

tled with the severe heat whenever there was an injury and play stopped for first aid attention.

Melita's coach Raul Blanco said after the match: "It is suicide to play soccer in that heat."

"We cheated the paying customer and we should only charge them \$3.50 each instead of \$7.00."

Tony Henderson, Blacktown's coach, was equally upset with the heat.

Henderson told us: "You can't expect players to give their best in such hot conditions."

"That heat kills players and it spoils the game for the fans."

"Why couldn't the League start the games

one or two hours later when it is a little cooler?"

Sydney wasn't the only place where the oppressive heat ruined QNSL games last weekend as it was also scorching in all the other centres.

Playing all ties on Sunday afternoon did not help attendances either.

Round 20 attracted 18,100 — the smallest total so far this season.

Arnold sole leader in players' award

BY GREG BLAKE

AUSSIE international Graham Arnold has charged to the lead in the ASW-Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre's QNSL Player of the Year award.

'Arnie', who has been spearheading Croatia's drive into finals calculations in recent weeks, shot to outright leadership in the award voting following sensational displays in games against St George and Apia.

When votes were tallied and averaged after Round 18 of QNSL competition, Arnold had jumped ahead of the pack by a .09 margin over Marconi's consistent Tommy McCulloch.

McCulloch and teammate David Lowe, as well as sensational St George keeper John Filan, are pressing Arnold at the head of the leader board.

The ASW-Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre Player of the Year will take home a magnificent trophy and a cheque for \$250 for his efforts.

Filan and the other goalkeepers in the QNSL are also in line for a special award sponsored by Reusch



Australia.

Remember, to be in contention for the award, players must poll votes in at least 20 QNSL matches.

The leader board after Round 18 is:

6.78 — G. Arnold (SG)
6.69 — T. McCulloch (Marc)
6.65 — J. Filan (StG)
6.64 — D. Lowe (Marc)

6.59 — G. Jolevski (PM)
6.58 — A. Davidson (MC)
6.56 — A. Bundalo (Apia)
6.47 — M. Durakovic (SMH)
6.38 — A. Tobin (AdC)
G. Brown (ME)
6.35 — A. McPherson (ME)
T. Pezzano (Apia)
6.33 — S. Keogh (SGC)
6.29 — G. Phillips (SO)
C. Moffitt (SIG)
6.28 — P. Tsotakis (SMH)
6.27 — D. Clarkson (SGC)
M. Petersen (SMH)
6.25 — Z. Adzic (MC)
R. Callin (Marc)
6.22 — D. Crainie (Woll)
6.21 — R. Slager (Ad.H)
D. Pupovac (Woll)
6.19 — R. Whealley (Marc)
D. Skeen (Woll)
6.18 — C. Gosling (SO)
6.15 — R. Hooker (SO)
6.14 — I. Gray (Marc)
6.13 — A. Genc (ME)
P. McFadden (Woll)
6.08 — R. Ironside (SO)
6.07 — F. de Jong (Marc)
B. Londos (Black)
6.06 — P. Katholos (Marc)
B. Halliday (Apia)
S. Clinch (Apia)
6.00 — A. Marth (MC)
B. Milosevic (MC)
W. Gonzalez (ME)
D. Stewart (Apia)
M. Platinolis (SO)
A. Vidmar (Ad. C)
S. Blair (SMH)



GRAHAM ARNOLD

Glavovic God-send for leaders Marconi

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



SENAD GLAVOVIC — a handy replacement for sidelined marksman Zlatko Nastevski.

SENAD GLAVOVIC, Marconi's 24 year old Yugoslav striker, is more than happy that Marconi has brought him to Australia.

The baby-faced Senad made his debut in the Yugoslav first division at the tender age of 16 with Velez Mostar back in 1982.

That game was against Buducnost Titograd. He remembers it clearly because, although he played well, Velez lost 2-0.

In all Glavovic played a creditable 120 first division games.

Glavovic would still be in Yugoslavia had he not been spotted by Marconi's assistant coach Ivo Prskalo, when the latter was in Yugoslavia on holidays at the end of last season.

Glavovic told me: "Ivo approached me to come out to Australia to play with Marconi and now that I'm here I'm most grateful to him."

"I'm also grateful to Marconi's Mr Labbozzetta, who accepted

Ivo's recommendation and has kept all the promises he made to me at the time of my signing."

When questioned about the main difference he has found between NSL football and the Yugoslav style, he unhesitatingly answered: "There is a lot more running in Australian football."

"Yugoslav soccer is more technical and the long ball and long crosses are used far more often."

Although happy to be with Marconi, Glavovic now has one disappointment.

He was looking forward to the day he could play with Zlatko Nastevski, Marconi's lethal marksman.

"I am most disappointed Zlatko suffered that had knee injury playing for Australia against Moscow Torpedos. It now looks like he will miss most of this season."

"I was very keen to play with Zlatko because he is a very clever, professional player and

would be a great team mate."

"Marconi misses him and I wish him a very quick recovery so he can join us again next season."

And who does Senad rate highly in the Marconi side?

"Marconi is a good club."

"They have many good players."

"I obviously like Nastevski. But Jean-Paul de Marigny, Tommy McCulloch and Peter Katholos are very good players as well."

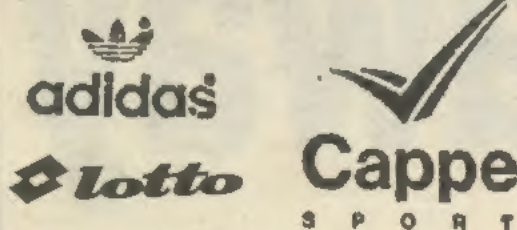
At the end of this season, Senad will return to Yugoslavia for a short break.

Whilst there, the Marconi striker hopes to entice his first love of his life, 22 year old girlfriend, Edina, to come back to Australia with him.

Glavovic has fitted into the Marconi side hand into glove, and has already been amongst the goals.

He bagged two in the recent 4-0 demolition of hapless Adelaide Hellas.

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Old rivals clash for semi berths

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

A place in the semi-finals goes on the line on Sunday when old rivals Sydney Croatia meet at St George Stadium.

Despite extending their unbeaten run to eight last week, Croatia have drawn three of their last four matches and are still only an outside chance for the finals.

To keep their slim hopes alive Croatia must win on Sunday but were dealt a cruel blow with the loss of Wally Savor out for the season with a recurring knee injury.

Olympic too have their problems, with only two wins in their last six matches and their attack appears a little unpolished with Abbas Saad joining Kevin Hagan on the sideline.

Scott Ollerenshaw, despite some flashes of brilliance against South Melbourne, has failed to deliver the goods and Olympic's finals chances look to hinge on the explosive Marko Perinovic and the possible return of Alistair Edwards.

Despite only one vic-

tory from their travels to Olympic, Croatia are a little more settled than their rivals and should win.

At Lambert Park on Sunday Top Five contenders Apia and Adelaide City meet in what is the match of the round.

With just one win in their last six Apia, who led the competition until a week ago, have dropped to fourth following their shock loss to the inconsistent Sunshine last week.

Missing for Apia are Milan Blagojevic (injured) and Darren Stewart (suspended), forcing coach Manfred Schaefer to reshuffle his backline for this important clash with City.

Adelaide have won only once at Apia and have struggled in their last two visits to NSW, losing to Melita and dropping a point to the struggling St George.

Coach Zoran Matic will look to Aurelio

Vidmar to continue his hot streak in front of goal to break Apia's fine home record of only one loss in 10 this season.

Possibly Blacktown's last chance of survival will come against the confident South Melbourne at the Gabbie on Saturday.

The Demons conceding 17 goals and without a win in their last seven at home will be without captain Charlie Yankos once again and new coach Tony Henderson will have his hands full to stop Kim Tuliadoros and Co.

Hellas took a strange hold on fifth place with the victory over Olympic last week and should remain unchanged for the match at the Gabbie.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Mariani expects big game from Melita

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

MARCONI coach Berti Mariani expects a big match from Melita Eagles on Sunday when the two attractive sides clash at Marconi Stadium.

"Both teams like to go forward and now that Melita have a couple of good wins under their belt, they will come at us with greater confidence," predicted Mariani.

Marconi after tonight's (Wednesday) deferred league match against St George, will be playing their seventh game in just 21 days but by the weekend should be well clear atop the standings.

"Melita have always endeavoured to play fast, open football, and on Sunday it will be no different. Their style is compatible to ours and it will be a great game to watch," Mariani added.

Melita, now well clear of relegation fears, and playing attractive, creative football, will go to Marconi Stadium in high spirits.

Both sides achieved victories last Sunday and both have goal-scoring midfielders.

The current ONSL champions have Ian Gray, Tommy McCulloch and Peter Katholos all capable of hitting goals from long-range, whilst Melita's midfield quartet of Lenny Vial, Craig Mason, Hugo

Gimenez and Aytec Genc have blended into a well-oiled unit.

Gimenez, in particular, with his tenacity and switch-play is Melita's "chief engineer."

Blanco makes no secret he is a fan of Mar-

coni's style of play.

"I would gladly pay \$7 to watch Marconi play. They are a true champion side and place a high priority on entertaining the customer."

All in all, Marconi Stadium on Sunday is the place to be.

MARCONI vs MELITA



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GREG BROWN



BERTI MARIANI

YOUTH LEAGUE
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NAME	CLUB	GAMES	AVE
1. JOHN FILAN	St George	18	6.65
2. ALEX McPHERSON	Melita	18	6.35
TONY PEZZANO	Apia	18	6.35

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JOHN FILAN

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AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY — MARCH 7, 1990

Marconi still unbeaten



BY LEN CHAFER

MARCONI kept their unbeaten record at Brandon Park intact when they beat Wollongong City 2-0 in searing heat last Sunday.

Wollongong slumped back into their old form, letting Marconi get to the ball first, and not being able to finish off when in front of goal.

On the other hand, Marconi did not have as many chances as the Wolves but still managed to score two goals, one in each half.

The first goal in the 20th minute by Ian Gray was helped on its way by a swirling wind after Gray had hit the ball on the turn.

Wollongong had failed to clear the ball three times before the goal.

Wollongong had started at a fast pace and were pushing the ball around with ease before Marconi began to win the ball a lot more in midfield with Gray dominant.

After Gray scored his goal, the Wolves looked as though they had levelled the scores when a great left foot shot by Pat Brodnik went screaming into the top right hand corner, but Bob Catlin made a brilliant save and managed to tip the ball around the post for a corner.

This seemed to be the turning point of the game as a minute later Brodnik put Randall Easthorpe through only to see him trip over the ball when he was in a good scoring position.

Two minutes before half-time Paul McFadden found himself in the penalty box where he had three attempts to score before Catlin denied him with two brave saves at the striker's feet before Steve Calderan

managed to deflect the ball over the line for a corner.

Jerry Murphy should have forced an equaliser early in the second half when his low shot hit the base of the far post and rolled over the line for a goalkick.

In the 62nd minute coach Berti Mariani sent on Gerry Gomez for Mateo Colucci, and it paid dividends straight away when Gomez came into the action early.

He sent a cross over from the right only to see Ray Vliesira head it away for a corner.

Marconi brought their luck with them when a throughball by Danny Crainie to Brodnik found open space for Brodnik to hit a good first-time shot but although he beat the goalkeeper his shot was kicked off the line by Wheatley.

Super-sub Gomez made sure of Marconi's win in the 73rd minute.

After Crainie had lost the ball in midfield, de Jong sent Gomez down the right flank, he in turn cut in towards goal, drew the keeper and slotted the ball into the far corner of the net.

Marconi deserved their win but it could have been a different story if the Wollongong front runners had taken their chances early in the game.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Bouhoutsis 6, Skeen 6, Murphy 6, Ratcliffe 6 (Morlando 75m), Vlietstra 6, Lloyd 5, McFadden 5, Hristovski 5 (Versi 75m), Easthorpe 5, Brodnik 7, Crainie 6.

MARCONI: Catlin 7, van Egmond 6 (Gisvovic 83m), de Marigny 6, Calderan 7, Wheatley 7, Gray 8, McCulloch 6, Okon 6, de Jong 5, Colucci 5 (Gomez 62m), Lowe 6.

Scorers: Gray 20m, Gomez 73m for Marconi.
Yellow cards: Crainie 76m for Wollongong; Gomez 76m for Marconi.
Referee: P Spiers 6.
Crowd: 1721.



Sydney Croatia's Tony Franken — one of the QNSL's in-form goalies — makes it look easy here against Preston last Sunday — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

Late goal wins it for South Melbourne

BY JOHN MANGAN

"I'm sick of losing away games," an irate Sydney Olympic coach Mick Hickman told his players after the team had slumped to a 2-1 defeat against traditional rivals South Melbourne at Middle Park on Sunday afternoon.

The fact that it was the narrowest of defeats decided by a goal in the 91st minute was no consolation.

South so nearly threw it away, conceding a sloppy goal right after they had snatched the lead and then wasting a heaven-sent penalty

opportunity 10 minutes before the final whistle.

As far as goals went, the day belonged to South striker Kimon Taliadoros. The Italian forceful attacker scored both his team's goals but unfortunately was also responsible for the defensive blunder that allowed Sydney Olympic

to score and keep a hold on the game till the final desperate minutes.

Souths' first goal came from an inspired "one-two" in the 41st minute. Taliadoros confused the Olympic defenders by knocking the ball backwards to Paul Trimboli whose first-time throughball left Taliadoros with only keeper Clint Gosling to beat.

But the striker's joy turned to dismay two minutes later when he under-hit a backpass to his own keeper Bruce MacLaren. Olympic's Marko Perinovic was on the ball in a flash and MacLaren opted to drag him down, conceding a penalty which Perinovic himself converted.

Olympic dominated the second half but South were given a golden opportunity to snatch the lead when Trimboli, once again

displaying his prodigious ball skills, was impeded in the penalty area.

Angie Postecoglou, who missed a penalty recently against Adelaide Hellas, was again unlucky as keeper Gosling confirmed his class to block the shot.

All was forgiven in the final minutes, though, when Postecoglou set up the winning goal pushing the ball to Trimboli who knocked it wide to an unmarked Taliadoros whose shot gave the keeper no chance.

SOUTH MELBOURNE MELB-LAS: MacLaren 7, Healy 6, Postecoglou 6, Durakovic 7, Blair 6, Wade 6, Taliadoros 7, Palatides 6 (Mori 63m), Trimboli 6, Wright 6, Tsolakis 7.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling 8, Barrett 6, Georgakis 6, Hristodoulou 6, Lee 6, Perinovic 6, Ollerenshaw 6, Bernal 7, Ronalds 6.

SCORERS: Taliadoros 41 and 91m for South Melbourne; Perinovic 43m (pen) for Olympic.

YELLOW CARDS: MacLaren for South Melbourne; Hooker for Sydney Olympic.
REFEREE: C. Banbridge 7.
CROWD: 4310.

Melita on a roll

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

MELITA Eagles' superb second half exhibition of team football laid the foundation for a 2-0 win over Blacktown City at Melita Stadium which hauled them well clear of the relegation zone.

Blacktown's luckless streak continued as despite holding a grip on the first half, they failed to cement their superiority with goals, especially from their former Socceroo midfielder, Zarko Odzakov, who twice came close to scoring.

In the 24th minute, left midfielder Geoff Gunning shot down the left flank and crossed a powerful ball into Melita's box, but Odzakov's crashing header from 10 metres skimmed over the top of Melita's crossbar.

energy of both sets of players. Melita seemed to cope better and they gained control in the second half with some excellent football by their midfield players.

Melita were finally rewarded in the 71st minute following a Sergio Falce corner from the right which striker Marshall Soper attacked with an overhead kick on the near post. His shot sliced across to the far post where Genc, completely unmarked, tapped the ball into the net.

Six minutes later, Melita made it 2-0 with a brilliant piece of team football engineered by the highly polished Hugo Gimenez who gained possession deep in his own half and knocked a wide ball to the left to find Genc who immediately crossed to the right for fullback Dickenson well up in attack.

Dickenson in turn immediately crucked a flat cross into Blacktown City's six yard box where an unmarked Soper was left to polish off formalities by tapping into the net from two metres.

Tony Henderson, Blacktown's coach, declared after the match: "We keep repeating our mistakes. We are naive as usual and I can't do the job for them on the pitch."

"Now we are in real trouble as we are running out of games. The first thing any team must do is keep a clean sheet at the back and then go on and hope to build on that clean sheet," the former Socceroo explained.



Alex McPherson

Nine minutes before half-time, Odzakov's free-kick from the edge of the penalty area flashed over the top of Melita's defensive wall, but a fully stretched goalkeeper, Alex McPherson, denied Odzakov any joy with a brilliant diving block for a corner.

Six minutes from the break Melita stung back when tough-tackling midfielder Craig Mason sprayed a nice ball wide to the right to his advanced fullback, Greg Dickenson, whose first-time blast from 25 metres crashed onto Blacktown's right post to keep the first session scoreless.

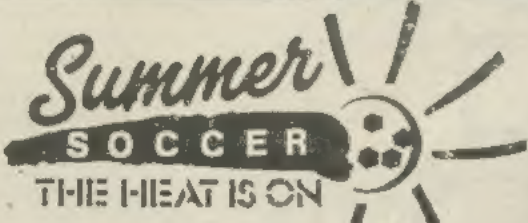
With the near-century heat sapping the

MELITA: McPherson 7, Dickenson 9, Williams 6, Gonzalez 6, Callinan 7, Vial 6 (Falce 46m), Mason 6, Gimenez 8, Genc 7, Soper 6, Brown 6 (Rizzotto 83m).

BLACKTOWN CITY: Lendos 5, Maier 5, Reynolds 6, Carter 7, Northam 6, Gibson 5, Bennett 5, Odzakov 8, Gunning 7, Arambasic 6, Ferguson 7 (McKinna 83m).

Scorers: Genc 71m, Soper 77m for Melita.
Yellow Card: Bennett 22m.
Referee: G. Power 8.
Crowd: 1782.

Weekend fixtures



★ Check daily newspapers for possible changes to kickoff times

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE GAMES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

Marconi v St George Marconi Stadium 7.30pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 10 — ROUND 20

Blacktown City v South Melbourne Gabble Stadium TBA

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

APIA Leichhardt v Adelaide City Lambert Park TBA

Melbourne Croatia v Wollongong City Somers Street 2.30pm

Adelaide Hellas v St George Hindmarsh Stad TBA

Sydney Olympic v Sydney Croatia St George Stadium 7pm

Preston Mak v Sunshine GC Connor Res TBA

Marconi v Melita Eagles Marconi Stadium 7pm



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

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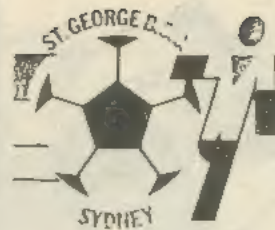




Preston came close on this occasion against Sydney Croatia but the score remained 1-1 — HECTOR CARRASCO pic.

Saints, Ad City draw in Newcastle

BY DAVE WILLIAMS



SUNDAY, March 4 was the day on which National League football returned to Newcastle after a four-year absence.

But the appearance of Adelaide City and St George at Austral Park — home ground of NSL aspirant, the recently-named BHP Austral — wasn't enough to entice the expected big crowd on a hot, late-summer afternoon.

Just under 1000 people saw the teams finish at 1-1 after a scoreless first half during which the quality of the football generally did not do justice to the class of the lush playing surface.

But, for one young man, the journey north was well worthwhile.

Steve Hickman, son of the Sydney Olympic coach, a second-half replacement and making his first NSL appearance, had the honour of scoring the St George equaliser in the 87th minute.

There was little to choose between the two teams throughout the first 45 minutes, which was marked by some wayward shooting.

In the eighth minute, a cross from the Adelaide left flank found Sergio Melta well positioned, but his shot from close to the penalty line shaved the right-side post.

Adelaide City had to contend with a period of St George pressure midway through the term, but the forays by Andy Harper and Matt Bingley were usually halted by Alex Tobin and Milan Ivanovich.

Adelaide City began the second half in a more determined mood and Steve Maxwell tested John Filan with a low, angled left-foot drive that the 'keeper held firmly.

Maxwell was prominent again in the 50th minute when he found space after beating two defenders, but again Filan was in position to save.

Melta, Maxwell and Mullen combined for Mullen's header to just miss the left-side post before Tony Vidmar brought down a high ball from the right and beat Filan, the best man on the field, with a 15-metre drive into the right-hand corner.

Soon after Hickman arrived in the 67th minute to replace Steve Knight, his flashing header brought a great save from Robert Zabica in the Adelaide goal.

But, from a set play 20 metres from the Adelaide goal in the 87th minute, the ball ricocheted high for Hickman to head it wide of Zabica's despairing dive.

ST GEORGE: Filan 8, Green 6, Spanoudakis 6, Moffitt 6, Koczka 6, O'Shea 6, Harper 6, Kralovic 6, Bingley 5 (McGregor 74m), Illic 5, Knight 5 (Hickman 67m).

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 6, Shillabeer 6, T. Vidmar 6, Ivanovic 6, Tobin 6, Melta 6, Santrac 6, Veart 6, Mullen 6 (Villani 76), Maxwell 6, A. Villmar 6.

SCORERS: Vidmar 63min for AdCity; Hickman 87m for St George.

Yellow cards: Koczka 40m, C. Moffitt 53m for St George. Referee: M. Loupis 6. Crowd: 959.

Georgie lions stun Apia

BY GREG BLAKE

ELEVEN young lions, against the odds, pulled off what quite possibly ranks as the most courageous victory in Sunshine's NSL history last Sunday when they came from behind to knock off erstwhile league leader Apia 2-1 at Skinner Reserve.

There has been few more stirring performances this season and surely, even if George Cross does nothing else for the remainder of the year, it will have Sunday's glorious victory over the Sydney high-rollers to look back on.

It took a superhuman effort and two breathtaking goals for Georgie to take the points.

They produced both and when skipper Shaun Parton scored the second to give Georgie the lead the roof nearly blew off the ancient Skinner Reserve grandstand as disbelieving fans exploded into who-

ops of joy.

It was a dramatic contrast to the first 45 minutes when injury-riddled George Cross (only five of the eleven players which faced Apia in Sydney in December were available last Sunday) struggled to make a mark against the league's top dogs.

Before half-time Apia, inspired by the dominance of Graham Jennings and Jason van Blerk down the left, set the pace of the game and had George Cross consistently backpedalling.

Half an hour in Apia did exactly what it had threatened to from the start of the game as van Blerk sped away down the left and crossed to the far post to where Shane Clinch beat the pack and tucked his header home for 1-0.

How and when the game changed will forever remain a mystery to me but it was apparent from the very earliest seconds of the second

half that George Cross was not prepared to be dominated so completely.

The adrenalin-pumping goal which shook the leaders and lifted George Cross came 62 minutes in from the unlikely form of sweeper John Waddell.

From all of 30 metres big Waddell's somewhat miraculous blast at goal managed to dip and swerve its way inside the far post and even Waddell looked to have surprised himself as the ball nestled in the back of the net.

When the raw-boned figure of Parton spread-eagled the pack to head home Kindtner's corner two minutes later and give George Cross the lead, the roar of the crowd shook the foundations of the old grandstand.

Minutes later the send-off of Darren Stewart not only effectively ended Apia's hopes, but it also served to epitomise the whole contest.

There was super-cool Stewart being harassed from behind by a pesky 16-year-old unknown, Kevin Muscat, who was nipping at his ankles.

Stewart looked to have floored the kid with a backward flick of the arm and, without hesitation, Jim Rossis had sentenced the Apia defender to an early shower.

It proved that sometimes, despite the odds, the little guys of this world can win out.

SUNSHINE: Keogh 7, Alevisos 5, Waddell 6, Parton 7, Ketsakidis 6, Muscat 5, Roodhouse 6, Fabrizio 6, Kindtner 7, Hasler 5, Tapai 5.

APIA: Pezzano 7, Jennings 6, D. Stewart (sent off 77m), M. Brown 6 (Stankovics 64m), Halliday 6, Bundalo 5 (Okon 75m), Ellem 6, Clinch 6, R. Brown 5, Murray 5, van Blerk 6.

Scorers: Waddell 62m, Parton 64m for Sunshine; Clinch 30m for Apia.

Yellow cards: Waddell 77m, Muscat 78m, Fabrizio 91m for Sunshine; Bundalo 72m for Apia.

Red card: Stewart 77m for Apia.

Referee: J. Rossis 6.

Crowd: 1520.



Goalkeeper Phil Traianedes saves under the watchful eye of Preston team-mates Steve Jackson and Martin Woodall in the match against Sydney Croatia — Photo HECTOR CARRASCO.

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Quit National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	18	10	6	2	36	15	26
Melbourne Croatia	19	10	4	5	37	21	24
Adelaide City	19	9	6	4	31	19	24
Apia Leichhardt	19	9	6	4	28	28	24
South Melbourne	19	10	4	5	26	17	24
Sydney Olympic	19	9	4	6	30	18	22
Sydney Croatia	19	7	5	7	27	28	19
Preston	19	7	4	8	20	23	18
Melita Eagles	19	7	4	8	17	20	18
Sunshine GC	19	6	4	9	23	32	16
Wollongong City	19	6	4	10	19	31	16
St George	18	4	6	8	20	30	14
Adelaide Hellas	19	4	2	13	17	41	10
Blacktown City	19	3	3	13	21	39	9

Results

MIDWEEK DEFERRED GAMES

MELITA EAGLES 2 (M. Soper, G. Brown) ADELAIDE CITY 1 (A. Vidmar) at Melita Stadium. Crowd: 1340.

MARCONI 2 (F. de Jong, T. McCulloch) BLACKTOWN 1 (G. Gomez o.g.) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 2485.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (A. Saad, S. Ollerenshaw) ADELAIDE HELLAS 1 (S. Politis) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 2009.

ROUND 19

WOLLONGONG CITY 0 MARCONI 2 (I. Gray, G. Gomez) at Brandon Park. Crowd: 1721.

SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (G. Arnold) PRESTON 1 (M. Woodall) at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 4986.

ADELAIDE HELLAS 0 MELBOURNE CROATIA 3 (J. Caleta, Z. Adzic, J. Markovski) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 2732.

ST GEORGE 1 (S. Hickman) ADELAIDE CITY 1 (T. Vidmar) at Austral Park, Newcastle. Crowd: 959.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 2 (J. Waddell, S. Parton) APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (S. Clinch) at Skinner Reserve. Crowd: 1520.

MELITA EAGLES 2 (A. Genc, M. Soper) BLACKTOWN CITY 0 at Melita Stadium. Crowd: 1762.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 (K. Taliadoros 2) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (M. Perinovic) at Middle Park. Crowd: 4310.

Crowds

ROUND 19: 18,190
AVERAGE PER GAME: 2,599
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 398,782*

* one deferred match still to be played

Top Scorers

Greg Brown	(Melita Eagles)	11
Zlatko Nastevski	(Marconi)	11
Abbas Saad	(Olympic)	11
Rod Brown	(Apia Leichhardt)	10
Zeljko Adzic	(Melbourne Croatia)	9
David Seal	(Sydney Croatia)	9
Steve Smith	(Preston)	8

Team of Round 19

J. Filan (St George)
G. Dickenson (Melita)
G. Jolevski (Preston)
S. Parton (Sunshine)
R. Wheatley (Marconi)
I. Gray (Marconi)
B. Milosevic (Melb Croatia)
H. Gimenez (Melita)
K. Taliadoros (Sth Melbourne)
G. Arnold (Sydney Croatia)
P. Tzolakis (Sth Melbourne)

Player of Round 19

Greg Dickenson (Melita Eagles)

Croatia misses its big chance

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

REFEREE John McConnell spoiled what would have otherwise been a fairytale return to Edensor Park by Zeljko Jurin when he disallowed the striker's injury-time winner in Sydney Croatia's scrappy 1-1 draw with Preston at a sweltering Croatian Sports Centre on Sunday.

Second half substitute Jurin was making his comeback after a lengthy spell in Europe and appeared to have kept Croatia in the hunt for a Top Five spot when he finished off a Manis Lamond cross but after consulting his linesman McConnell correctly ruled that with Preston keeper Phil Traianedes well outside his area, both Jurin and David Seal were caught in an offside position.

The oppressive 30-degree heat gave the crowd its first real taste of summer soccer but it also caused the match to degenerate into a tedious affair in the second half after a reasonably bright opening half-hour.

Young David Seal nearly grabbed a sensational first-minute lead, latching on to a Graham Arnold header and clipping the crossbar from 20 metres.

For the next 30 minutes, however, Preston took a commanding grip on midfield and Robert Markovac forced a good save from Tony Franken before Preston hit the front on the quarter-hour.



Alan Hunter typically goes high to punch the ball away with his head — HECTOR CARRASCO pic.

Midfielder Martin Woodall won possession 25 metres out and, with no options available, tried his luck with a powerful drive along the ground which took an awkward bounce and deceived Franken before going in off the post.

Croatia was struggling to make any impact on a confident Preston but as he has so often done in the past, captain Graham Arnold dragged his side back into the match and was instrumental in starting the move which led to his equaliser after 31 minutes.

Arnold released Manis Lamond, found space behind the Preston defence and picked up the return ball before taking one step and hammering his shot into the far top corner.

For the remainder of the first half Croatia began to create large gaps and Lamond failed to take advantage from a comedy of errors in the 35th minute when he missed the target from point-blank range.

The second half de-

veloped into a somewhat dull stalemate, Seal unable to connect after Traianedes misjudged a Steve Gojevic cross in the 61st and Robert Markovac responding for Preston a minute later with a strong header which tested Franken.

But the longer the game wore on, the more the sizzling heat was taking its toll on both sides.

Croatia came agonisingly close in snatching that late winner through Jurin but it would have been an injustice for a Preston team which did not deserve to go back to Melbourne empty-handed.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken 6, Kupresak 6, Grbevski 5, Hunter 6, Jones 6, Rumora 5, Ricoy 5, Gojevic 5 (Jurin 70m), Arnold 7, Seal 6, Lamond 6.

PRESTON: Traianedes 6, Temcev 6, Jolevski 7, Jackson 6, Ristevski 5 (J Markovac 75m), Woodall 6, Petrov 6, R. Markovac 6 (Metaxa 85m), Smith 6, Crino 5, Zinni 5.

Scorers: Woodall 15m for Preston; Arnold 31m for Croatia.
Yellow cards: Gojevic 41m, Lamond 41m, Arnold 91m for Croatia; Ristevski 28m, Temcev 75m for Preston.
Referee: J. McConnell 7.
Crowd: 4986.

Miller tops for Melbourne Croatia

BY ALAN CLARK

MELBOURNE Croatia goalkeeper David Miller cast a giant shadow over his old club Hellas in the dazzling sun of this QNSL fixture won handsomely 3-0 by the visitors.

Miller was simply awesome in both halves as Melbourne Croatia scored a controlled hit and run victory.

Hellas had much of the play but found Miller and their own scoring ineptitude too big a hurdle.

"Miller must get 10 out of 10, he was magic," said Croatia coach Ivan Raznjajevic later.

"He has worked very hard under my assistant Larry Ostrovski and has improved all the time. But this was his best.

"I am pleased with the two points though we were tired because of the heat. We counter-acted Hellas well and it was a good victory."

Croatia was impressive in the furnace heat.

While Miller made match-saving blocks and clutches on no less than four occasions from inspirational Hellas skipper Alby Kidd, the speedy Croatia attack was deadly on the break.

Joe Caleta netted the visitors' first goal in 14 minutes when his pace powered him past Robbie Slager and he drove home.

Mark Talajic went on an unopposed run from deep in 26 minutes and skipped past sweeper Richard Miranda before netting a crucial second.

Hellas stepped up a gear, despite the heat, in the second half but still could not trouble the scoreboard.

Quenten Watkins, a substitute at half-time for young Damien Counter, had the best chance in 67 minutes when ice-man Alan Davidson slipped to let him in.

But Miller again saved and Hellas were left to wonder just what they could do to put the ball in the net.

Socceroo Zeljko Adzic scampered down the left and fired over a good cross that Caleta sent nat-bound only for Greg Mills to clear.

The ball, though, broke for cannon-shot Markovski from pop-gun range and he made no mistake.

ADELAIDE HELLAS: Tzolendis 7, Hiern 6, Mills 7, Counter 5 (Watkins 6), Slager 6, Miranda 7, Vasilas 5 (Karapetis 79m), Politis 5, Kidd 7, Brazzale 5, Blair 5.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller 8, Davidson 7, Marth 6, Donnelly 6, Hannah 6, Duzel 5 (Markovski 61m), Milosevic 7, Talajic 7, Caleta 7, Adzic 6, Awaritefa 5 (Kelic 81m).

SCORERS: Caleta 14m, Talajic 26m, Markovski 83m for Melbourne Croatia.

YELLOW CARDS: Politis 6m, Brazzale 52m for Hellas; Adzic 6m, Marth 52m for Melbourne Croatia.

REFEREE: R. Loran 7.
CROWD: 2732.

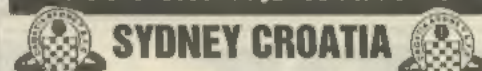
NSL CUP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7
SOUTH MELBOURNE v BLACKTOWN CITY

Olympic Park, 8pm



U/23 PLAYERS WANTED



SYDNEY CROATIA is now inviting players for its Under 23 squad to play in the NSW State League "Conference B" competition. Talented players are sought, and must have a free clearance from their current club. All trainings will be under the guidance of senior NSL coach, TONY VRZINA.

Players are wanted for the Club's Under 19s team to play in the same competition

COACH WANTED

Applications are now invited for the position of Under 19 Coach.

For further information to the above, please contact

THE SECRETARY, SYDNEY CROATIA

☎ (02) 623 6230

Coaches' applications to be forwarded to:
SYDNEY CROATIA F.C.
455 Edensor Road, EDENSOR PARK.
NSW 2176.

SOCCER POOLS



THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST WEEK 241 SAT 10 MARCH

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	CHELSEA	NORWICH	1
	MAN. CITY	ARSENAL	2
	NOTTINGHAM F.	COVENTRY	3
	TOTTENHAM	CHARLTON	4
	BLACKBURN	WEST BROM	5
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	BRADFORD C.	STOKE	6
	HULL	MIDDLESBRO	7
	IPSWICH	BRIGHTON	8
	OXFORD UTD.	LEEDS	9
	PLYMOUTH	SWINDON	10
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	PORT VALE	BOURNEMOUTH	11
	SUNDERLAND	LEICESTER	12
	WATFORD	NEWCASTLE	13
	WEST HAM	PORTSMOUTH	14
	BOLTON	NOTTS C.	15
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	BRENTFORD	CREWE	16
	HUDDERSFIELD	FULHAM	17
	NORTHAMPTON	CARDIFF	18
	ROTHERHAM	BURY	19
	SWANSEA	MANSFIELD	20
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	WALSALL	BIRMINGHAM	21
	ALDERSHOT	DONCASTER	22
	CHESTERFIELD	HEREFORD	23
	GRIMSBY	EXETER	24
	HALIFAX	SCARBORO	25
VAUXHALL LEAGUE PREMIER DIV	HARTLEPOOL	ROCHDALE	26
	MAIDSTONE	COLCHESTER	27
	PETERBORO	LINCOLN	28
	TORQUAY	SCUNTHORPE	29
	YORK	BURNLEY	30
SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV	BARROW	FISHER ATH.	31
	CHELTENHAM	MACCLESFIELD	32
	BARKING	CARSHALTON	33
	BISHOPS S.	WORKINGHAM	34
	OUTWICH	AYLESBURY	35
SCOTTISH B & O DIVISION 1	GRAYS	KINGSTONIAN	36
	HAYES	DAGENHAM	37
	MARLOW	LEYTON WTE	38
	ST. ALBANS	BOGNOR R.	39
	CELTIC	HEARTS	40
SCOTTISH B & O DIVISION 2	DUNDEE	DUNFERMLINE	41
	HIBERNIAN	ABERDEEN	42
	MOTHERWELL	DUNDEE U.	43
	ST. MIRREN	RANGERS	44
	ALBION R.	S. JOHNSTONE	45
SCOTTISH B & O DIVISION 3	ALLOA	FALKIRK	46
	AYR	CLYDE	47
	CLYDEBANK	MEADOWBANK	48
	FORFAR	AIRDRIE	49
	PARTICK	HAMILTON	50
SCOTTISH B & O DIVISION 4	RAITH	MORTON	51
	BERWICK	EAST FIFE	52
	COWDENBATH	STIRLING A.	53
	DUMFARTON	ARBROATH	54
	E. STIRLING	STRANRAER	55

RESERVE MATCHES			
1	ST. ALBANS	BOGNOR R.	39
	CELTIC	HEARTS	40
	DUNDEE	DUNFERMLINE	41
	HIBERNIAN	ABERDEEN	42
	MOTHERWELL	DUNDEE U.	43
	ST. MIRREN	RANGERS	44
	ALBION R.	S. JOHNSTONE	45
	ALLOA	FALKIRK	46
	AYR	CLYDE	47
	CLYDEBANK	MEADOWBANK	48
	FORFAR	AIRDRIE	49
	PARTICK	HAMILTON	50
	RAITH	MORTON	51
	BERWICK	EAST FIFE	52
	COWDENBATH	STIRLING A.	53
	DUMFARTON	ARBROATH	54
	E. STIRLING	STRANRAER	55

*Q.M. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE LEAGUE
1 VAUXHALL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 3/3/90 — WEEK 240

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED									NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED																				
1	25	28	38	14	29	44	34	44	8	7	8	2	14	5	6	3	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	42	54	47	50	45	46	49	43	28	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17	45	43	35	50	45	48	50	46	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	45	54	52	60	53	68	49	51	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	5	2	1	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33	49	63	55	64	50	50	—	—	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	3	4	—	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools																													

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools

ENGLISH DIV 1: Charlton 0 Norwich 1, Liverpool 1 Millwall 0, Manchester United 4 Luton 1, Nottingham Forest 1 Manchester City 0, Queen's Park Rangers 2 Arsenal 0, Sheffield Wednesday 1 Derby 0, Southampton 2 Chelsea 3, Tottenham 0 Crystal Palace 1, Wimbledon 3 Everton 1.

DIV 2: Blackburn 2 Wolverhampton 3, Bradford 1 Sheffield United 4, Brighton 1 Oldham 1, Hull 1 Oxford 0, Ipswich 2 Leicester 2, Middlesbrough 0 West Ham 1, Newcastle 4 Barnsley 1, Plymouth 3 Sunderland 0, Stoke 0 Bournemouth 0, Swindon 3 Port Vale 0, Watford 1 Leeds 0, West Bromwich 0 Portsmouth 0.

DIV 3: Birmingham 4 Mansfield 1, Blackpool 4 Walsall 3, Bristol Rovers 6 Wigan 1, Bury 3, Notts County 2, Chester 0 Bristol City 3, Fulham 3 Preston 1, Huddersfield 0 Crewe 1, Leyton Orient 0 Swansea 2, Northampton 0 Tranmere 4, Reading 2 Bolton 0, Rotherham 2 Brentford 1. Played Friday: Cardiff 0 Shrewsbury 1.

DIV 4: Chesterfield 5 Torquay 1, Exeter 3 York 1, Gillingham 1 Cambridge 0, Grimsby 2 Doncaster 1, Halifax 0 Scunthorpe 1, Hereford 4 Aldershot 1, Lincoln 4 Hartlepool 1, Peterborough 3 Wrexham 1, Rochdale 3 Maidstone 2, Scarborough 4 Burnley 2, Southend 2 Carlisle 0. Played Friday: Stockport 1 Colchester 1.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV: Celtic 3 Dundee United 0, Dundee 2 Rangers 2, Dunfermline 2 Aberdeen 4, Hearts 2 Motherwell 0, St Mirren 0 Hibernian 1. DIV 1: Albion 1 Airdrieonians 2, Clydebank 0 Ayr 1, Forfar 3 Alloa 2, Hamilton 2 Falkirk 2, Meadowbank 1 Morton 0, Partick 0 Clyde 3, St Johnstone 0 Raith 0.

DIV 2: Berwick 1 Queen of the South 1, Brechin 1 Queen's Park 0, East Fife 2 Arbroath 3, Kilmarnock 2 East Stirling 0, Stenhousemuir 2 Cowdenbeath 1, Stirling 2 Montrose 3.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE											ENGLISH DIVISION TWO										
Liverpool	27	15	8	4	51	26	53	—	—	—	Leeds	32	17	9	6	56	37	60	—	—	—
Aston Villa	26	16	4	6	43	24	52	—	—	—	Sheff Wed	31	16	11	4	49	32	59	—	—	—
Notts Fst	26	12	7	7	39	25	43	—	—	—	Swindon	32	15	9	8	59	43	54	—	—	—
Arsenal	26	13	4	9	38	27	43	—	—	—	Oldham	31	13	12	6	47	36	51	—	—	—
Chelsea	28	11	9	8	45	41	42	—	—	—	Newcastle	31	13	11	7	57	40	50	—	—	—
Southampton	27	10	9	8	53	46	39	—	—	—	Wolves	32	13	10	9	50	41	49	—	—	—
Tottenham	28	11	6	11	39	36	39	—	—	—	Sunderland	32	12	12	8	49	48	48	—	—	—
Derby	26	11	5	10	33	23	38	—	—	—	Blackburn	32	11	14	7	56	48	47	—	—	—
Wimbledon	27	9	11	7	34	28	38	—	—	—	Port Vale	32	11	11	10	43	38	44	—	—	—
Everton	26	11	5	10	35	34	38	—	—	—	West Ham	31	11	10	10	45	38	43	—	—	—
Norwich	27	10	6	9	30	31	38	—	—	—	Oxford	31	12	7	12	43	41	43	—	—	—
Coventry	25	11	4	10	24	32	37	—	—	—	Ipswich	30	11	10	9	44	46	43	—	—	—
QPR	26	9	9	8	30	29	36	—	—	—	Bournemouth	32	11	9	12	47	51	42	—	—	—
Sheff Wed	29	8	9	12	24	37	33	—	—	—	Leicester	32	11	9	12	44	50	42	—	—	—
Crystal Pal	27	9	6	12	32	51	33	—	—	—	Watford	31	10	9	12	38	38	39	—	—	—
Man Utd	27	8	7	12	34	37	31	—	—	—	Portsmouth	32	8	13	11	41	46	37	—	—	—
Man City	27	7	7	13	28	42	28	—	—	—	WBA	32	8	12	12	49	51	36	—	—	—
Luton	27	5	11	11	29	41	25	—	—	—	Brighton	32	10	6	16	38	46	36	—	—	—
Millwall	28	5	9	14	33	48	24	—	—	—	Plymouth	30	9	7	14	41	45	34	—	—	—
Charlton	28	5	8	15	23	38	23	—	—	—											

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV

Rangers	28	16	8	4	39	16	40	—	—	—	Airdrie	30	20	6	4	61	28	46	—	—	—
Aberdeen	28	13	8	7	45	27	34	—	—	—	St Johnst	30	18	7	5	57	30	43	—	—	—
Hearts	28	13	7	8	47	31	33	—	—	—	Hamilton	29	11	11	7	41	37	33	—	—	—
Celtic	28	10	10	8	33	24	30	—	—	—	Clydebank	30	12	8	10	58	49	32	—	—	—
Motherwell	28	9	10	9	37	27	28	—	—	—	Falkirk	30	11	10	9	48	40	32	—	—	—
Dundee Utd	28	8	11	9	31	34	27	—	—	—	Ayr	30	10	10	10	35	48	30	—	—	—
Hibernian	28	8	11	11	26	33	26	—	—	—	Partick	30	9	11	10	49	42	29	—	—	—
Dunfermlin	28	9	6	13	31	42	24	—	—	—	Raith	29	11	7	11	41	42	29	—	—	—
St Mirren	28	8	6	18	22	43	22	—	—	—	Midwbk	30	10	9	11	32	36	29	—	—	—
Dundee	28	3	10	15	33	57	16	—	—	—	Morton	30	6	15	9	28	35	27	—	—	—

Note: Forfar deducted 2 pts for fielding ineligible player.

RESULTS OF WEEK 240 SAT 3 MARCH, 1990

Total Prize Pool is \$593,259.00

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order): 8, 10, 12, 16, 19, 35.

Supplementary Number: 26

Division 1: The Prize Pool is \$500,000.00
1 provisional winner from Victoria.
Division 2: The Prize Pool is \$5,324.00
5 provisional winners of \$1,064.80ea.
Division 3: The Prize Pool is \$15,972.00
66 winners of \$242.00ea.
Division 4: The Prize Pool is \$39,983.25
2,995 winners of \$13.35ea.
Division 5: The Prize Pool is \$31,979.75
4,411 winners of \$7.55ea.

MATCH RESULTS

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	CHARLTON	NORWICH	1	0-1
	LIVERPOOL	MILLWALL	2	1-0
	MAN. UTD.	LUTON	3	4-1
	NOTT'M F.	MAN. CITY	4	1-0
	SHEFF. WED.	DERBY	5	1-0
	TOTTENHAM	CRYSTAL F.	6	0-1
	WIMBLEDON	EVERTON	7	3-
	BLACKBURN	WOLVES	8	2-3*
	BRADFORD C.	SHEFF. UTD.	9	1-4
	BRIGHTON	OLDHAM	10	1-1*
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	HULL	OXFORD UTD.	11	1-0
	IPSWICH	LEICESTER	12	2-2*
	MIDDLESBRO	WEST HAM	13	0-1
	NEWCASTLE	BARNSELY	14	4-1
	PLYMOUTH	SUNDERLAND	15	3-0
	STOKE	BOURNEM TH	16	0-0*
	SWINDON	PORT VALE	17	3-0
	WATFORD	LEEDS	18	1-0
	WEST BROM.	PORTSMOUTH	19	0-0*
	BIRMINGHAM	MANSFIELD	20	4-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BLACKPOOL	WALSALL	21	4-3
	BRISTOL R.	WIGAN A.	22	6-1
	BURY	NOTTS C.	23	3-2
	CHESTER	BRISTOL C.	24	0-3
	FULHAM	PRESTON	25	3-1
	HUDDERSFIELD	CREWE	26	0-1*
	LEYTON O.	SWANSEA	27	0-2
	NORTHPTON	TRANMERE	28	0-4
	READING	BOLTON	29	2-0
	ROTTERHAM	BRENTFORD	30	2-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	CHESTERFIELD	TORQUAY	31	5-1
	EXETER	YORK	32	3-1
	GILLINGHAM	CAMBRIDGE U.	33	1-0
	GRIMSBY	DONCASTER	34	2-1
	HALIFAX	SCUNTHORPE	35	0-1*
	HEREFORD	ALDERSHOT	36	4-1
	LINCOLN	HARTLEPOOL	37	4-1
	PETERBORO	WREXHAM	38	3-1

Marconi scrape home with a late winner

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

A stunning Tommy McCulloch winner two minutes into injury-time allowed Marconi to surge back to the top of the QNSL table with a somewhat fortunate 2-1 win over Blacktown City in their deferred match at the Marconi Stadium last Wednesday night.

With time fast running out and the highly determined Demons holding out against an increasingly frustrated Marconi, young Paul Okon produced an unexpected killer ball for Tommy McCulloch to finally find a way past keeper Bill Londos.

The Blacktown keeper had earlier defied attempts from Ian Gray and David Lowe with two superb saves and appeared to earn his side a valuable point in their almost hopeless battle against relegation.

New coach Tony Henderson was making his first return to Bosley Park after an illustrious 10-year career at Marconi, but there was little sentiment shown as his Demons displayed a large dose of newly-found character to fight back strongly after going behind in the first half and came close to causing a boilover.

Striker Fred de Jong had given Marconi the lead after 25 minutes when he was on the spot to hammer home an Ian



FRED DE JONG

Gray cross which Londos could only half save.

But the Demons were not to be denied and put enough pressure on Gerry Gomez in the 54th minute for him to send a looping header floating over his own keeper for the equaliser.

A lethargic looking

Marconi were stung into action and Gray drove a vicious low shot eight minutes later which Londos somehow managed to claw out, but the Demons responded with first Gunning then Kurt Reynolds forcing good saves out of Catlin.

With just three minutes remaining David Lowe looked all set to win the match for Marconi with a neat looking chip from 10 metres but Londos again denied him with a spectacular save.

The pressure finally told on the Demons two minutes into injury-time when Okon collected a ball from Matteo Colucci just outside the area and with everyone expecting a far post cross, the youngster calmly pushed his pass along the ground for McCulloch to run onto and neatly slot past Londos.

MARCONI: Catlin 7, van Egmond 6 (Colucci 70m), Gomez 6, Wheatley 7, de Marigny 6, Gray 8, McCulloch 7, Okon 7, Kalholos 6, de Jong 6, Glasovic 6 (Lowe 55m).

BLACKTOWN CITY: Londos 8, Carter 7, Reynolds 6, Yankos 6, Maier 6, Bennett 6, Gibson 6, Ferguson 6 (McKinna 81m), Odzakov 7, Arambasic 6, Gunning 6 (Murphy 83m).

SCORERS: de Jong 25m, McCulloch 92m for Marconi; Gomez own goal for Blacktown 54m.

YELLOW CARDS: Carter 5m, Bennett 24m, Yankos 28m, Maier 90m for Blacktown.

REFEREE: J. Rossis 6. **CROWD:** 2485.

Melita snare two precious points

BY DAVID COOPER

MELITA moved further away from the relegation zone when they defeated second-placed Adelaide City in the deferred Round 15 QNSL match played last Wednesday at Melita stadium.

The Melita win also denied Adelaide City outright leadership of the competition.

Melita from the start looked more settled than City and in the 7th minute, they went ahead through a vintage Marshall Soper goal.

Lenny Vial did the initial good work on the right and his cross found Soper, who turned his man beautifully and his shot gave Robert Zabica no chance in the Adelaide City goal.

However, Melita's joy was short-lived though when Aurelio Vidmar struck back for the visitors in the ninth minute, Vidmar, completely unmarked by the Melita defence, had no trouble driving home a Carl Veart cross from about eight metres out.

From this point on, Melita completely dominated the rest of the first half.

Soper had a great chance to score a second goal in the 17th minute but his shot hit the crossbar and rebounded safely away much to the relief of the Adelaide City defenders who were having a torrid time trying to contain Soper and Brown who were working beautifully together.

In the 40th minute,

Adelaide had their only chance to take the lead in the first half when Tony Vidmar, with only the goalkeeper to beat, put his shot wide.

The breakthrough for Melita came in the 44th minute when Soper laid a cheeky backpass to Brown who took on two defenders and as he made his way into the box was brought down.

Referee Peter Spiers had no hesitation in awarding the penalty which Brown calmly converted for his 11th goal of the season.

The second half saw the game mainly played in the midfield with very little goalmouth action.

In the 55th minute, a Steve Maxwell hit free-kicked forced a good save from Melita's goalkeeper Alex McPherson.

The best chances of the second half both fell to Melita in the last 10 minutes, with Sergio Falce and Brown coming close.

Melita thoroughly deserved their win and now that they no longer have to worry about relegation, they are likely to create many more upsets.

MELITA EAGLES: McPherson 6, Callanan 6, O'Donnell 5 (Falce 48m), Barrios (Dickenson 5, 32m), Gonzalez 6, Mason 6, Vial 6, Gimenez 5, Soper 7, Genc 5, Brown 7.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 7, Shillabeer 5 (Villani 78m), T. Vidmar 6, Ivanovich 5, Tobin 5, Melita 5, Santrac 6, Veart 6, Mullen 5, Maxwell 7, A. Vidmar 6.

SCORERS: Soper 7m, Brown 44m for Melita; A. Vidmar 9m for Adelaide City.

YELLOW CARDS: Callanan 27m, Soper 34m for Melita; Ivanovich 82m for Ad City. **REFEREE:** P. Spiers 6. **CROWD:** 1340.

Olympic scramble to 2-1 victory

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



SCOTT OLLERENSHAW

SYDNEY OLYMPIC scrambled back into the Top Five with a scrappy 2-1 victory over a much improved Adelaide Hellas in a deferred match at St George Stadium last Wednesday night.

Abbas Saad and Scott Ollerenshaw scored for Olympic in the 14th and 19th minutes respectively, whilst 18-year-old striker Steve Polites, making his NSL debut, replied for the visitors seven minutes after halftime.

In reality Olympic should consider themselves a trifle lucky, as, after taking their early 2-0 lead, they lost control of the match in the second half as the South Australians tightened their defence and reduced their attacking longer periods.

Ironically, Adelaide should have taken the lead when left midfielder Ray Blair put his captain and midfielder, Alby Kidd, into the clear with only Olympic goalkeeper Clint Gosling to beat. Gosling raced off his line to smother the point-blank chance.

Saad scored with a brilliant half-volley from 10 metres out, after Andrew Bernal passed for Dave Barrett to cross from the right into Adelaide's box.

Ollerenshaw made it 2-0 for Olympic after streaking away from the right side on a diagonal 45-metre raid, beating three Adelaide defen-

ders with sheer pace before slotting his five metre shot at the target from the right side for only his second goal since joining Olympic.

Adelaide Hellas pulled a goal back following a corner whipped in from the right side which was back-headed into Olympic's net by the young striker, Polites.

Adelaide skipper Alby Kidd suffered a nasty gash to the head in the 26th minute, but he managed to see the match through.

Brian Garvey, Adelaide's coach, stated after the match: "Our goalkeeper, Chris Tsoleridis, did well to keep us alive in a disastrous first half, but we don't seem to learn from our mistakes as we were still full-backs to attack us."

In fact both goalkeepers did well as Gosling twice was called upon to get Olympic out of jail through sharp efforts from Kidd first and later from Peter Rankin.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling 7, Barrett 6, Plataniotis 6, Georgakis 6, Bernal 7, Ironside 6, Hristodoulou 6, Ollerenshaw 7 (Phillips 83m), Perinovic 6, Saad 6 (Lee 50m).

ADELAIDE HELLAS: Tsoleridis 7, Hiern 6, Slager 6, Miranda 6, G. Mills 6, Watkins 6 (Vatsilas 76m), Klod 7, Carter 7, Rankin 6, Polites 7, Blair 6.

Scorers: Saad 14m, Ollerenshaw 19m for Sydney Olympic; Polites 52m for Adelaide Hellas.

Yellow cards: Ironside 15m, Georgakis 75m for Olympic; Miranda 39m for Adelaide Hellas.

Referee: M. Loupis 7. **Crowd:** 2,009.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Alistair Russell's Round 20 NSL preview

The Demons have never beaten South Melbourne and with Paul Trimboli beginning to find his best form anything less than a win for Puskas' side would be a major upset.

Preston and Sunshine who look likely to finish mid-table this season meet at Connor Reserve on Sunday.

Sunshine ended a run of four defeats after coming from behind to down previous leaders Apia 2-1 and in the process virtually guaranteed their survival in the top flight for next season.

The two Melbourne sides have suffered greatly through injuries to key players and the list is growing.

Classy midfielder Dave Clarkson will be out for the season, joining stars Ossie Latif and Craig Foster on the sidelines while Preston

have been without Oscar Crino and Warren Spink for most of the season.

Preston have muffed their chances of making the play-offs with only one win from their last seven outings but at home should take the points.

Melbourne Croatia, currently second following their whitewash of Adelaide Hellas last week, play host to Wolongong at Somers Street on Sunday.

With five wins in their last six matches Croatia have established themselves as Melbourne's main contender once again for the title.

Zeljko Adzic took his tally to nine for the season while Joe Caleta netted his seventh.

The Wolves with little to play for should be no match for the high-

flying Croatia and should expect a torrid afternoon.

Adelaide Hellas play their most important match back in the big time when they host fellow-strugglers St George at Hindmarsh on Sunday.

One place behind St George and four points in arrears, nothing short of a win will be enough for Hellas who have conceded 10 goals in their last three successive defeats.

St George must first face leaders Marconi in their deferred match midweek and will find no leeway from a determined Hellas on Sunday.

A draw for the Saints will be as good as a win and no doubt coach Frank Arok will travel to Adelaide with plans to stifle the Hellas attack and sneak a point.



Oscar Crino

Sentiment favours the home side who must fight tooth and nail and should win.

URUGUAYAN INTERNATIONAL VETERAN CUP (OVER 32)

Teams are invited to participate in this competition to be held at Whitlam Park, Liverpool from the 25th of March.

First prize for the winner \$1000.00
Runner-up \$ 500.00
Third place \$ 250.00

plus trophies for the first four and best goalkeeper, leading scorer and fairest player.

For further information ring Mr Vina, 787 1980, Mr Alves 759 0104 or The Uruguayan Social and Sporting Club,

Fridays and Saturday after 6pm on 607 2470

Spain to rely on Madrid old guard

SPAIN will be looking for inspiration from their old guard of Real Madrid stars once again when they make their fourth consecutive appearance in the World Cup finals in Italy.

The talented youngsters, who raised great hopes for Spanish soccer after making a dramatic impact in the 1984 European finals in France, have now become the stalwart veterans of a team which always struggles to fulfil its fans' expectations on big occasions.

Despite deeply-rooted soccer traditions and the universal fame of Real Madrid and Barcelona, Spain has never been able to match its best World Cup finish of fourth in Brazil in 1950 in nine subsequent attempts, four of which floundered at the qualifying stage.

But they will travel to Italy bolstered by the confidence of having suffered only one defeat, by Eire, during an impressive qualifying performance which, unexpectedly, failed to satisfy their critics in the Spanish media.

They say their qualifying group six, with Hungary, Eire, Northern Ireland and Malta, was relatively easy.

The critics fear the real challenges are to come when they face Uruguay, the team coach Luis Suarez most fears, in their opening game, South Korea, and Belgium, who knocked them out of the last World Cup on penalties in Mexico four years ago.



Real Madrid star Michel — one of Spain's key players for Italia '90.

Suarez, 54, has a good record since taking over from Miguel Munoz two years ago. In his 12 games in charge, Spain have won eight, drawn three and lost only one.

Suarez, a famed Spanish international midfielder who won 31 caps during the 1950s while playing for Barcelona and AC Milan, with whom he also won two European Cups, will rely on Real Madrid to again provide the backbone of his team.

His chief match-winning hopes will rest with Madrid striker Emilio Butragueno's experience and flashes of genius. But "El Buitre" (the vulture) has come under fire for losing some of his brilliance since he hit four goals against Denmark in Mexico.

Butragueno and his Real Madrid teammates defender Miguel Chendo and midfielder Michel Gonzalez and Barcelona's goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta and striker Julio Salinas are the veterans from Mexico who will form the core of Suarez's team.

Suarez will probably pick Real Madrid's most influential midfielder Rafael Martin Vazquez, once described by former Argentine manager Cesar Luis Menotti as potentially the world's greatest player, alongside Michel.

The other two midfield berths in a 4-4-2 formation remain open with newcomers Juan Francisco Rodriguez "Juanito" of Real Zaragoza and Mariano Minguella of Real Valladolid vying with a Barcelona quartet of Roberto Fernandez, Jose Mari Bakero, Aitor Beguiristain and Eusebio Sacristan.

The defence, which the critics say was never truly tested in the qualifiers, could be Spain's weakness. The back four has individual quality, but appears to lack positional sense and the central defenders have often been dragged wide by opposing forwards and left to resort to fouls.

In attack, Spain will rely heavily again on the running of Butragueno and support from midfield.

Despite all this, Spain will be tough opposition with their accomplished collective play and quick interpassing, but not likely to be among the challengers for the trophy.

Spain will play Austria in a home warm-up game on March 28 before travelling to Udine on May 20.

They will play two more warm-ups in Udine and Verona before facing Uruguay on June 13.

ARGENTINA's hopes of retaining the World Cup could be hampered by preparation problems which include having a core of top players, Diego Maradona among them, at clubs halfway across the globe.

Although a group including Cameroon, the Soviet Union and Romania should not be too daunting, national coach Carlos Bilardo is worried that poor fitness levels and a lack of team experience may undermine his ambitions.

"We have two difficulties," he said.

"One is the slow recovery of the injured players and the other is that we can never play together as a team as many members are in Europe," said Bilardo, who has declined to add the individual problems of his captain Maradona to his list of worries.

Maradona, Argentina's inspiration and match-winner in Mexico four years ago when they lifted the World Cup for the second time, is just one of a number of leading Argentine players who are employed by European clubs.

Other Europe-based stars likely to play a major part in Bilardo's team include Jorge Buruchaga (Nantes, France), Gabriel Calderon (Paris Saint-Germain), Oscar Ruggeri (Real Madrid) and Claudio Caniggia (Atalanta, Italy).

On a recent tour, with many key players missing, Argentina were beaten 2-0 by Monaco, drew 0-0 with Guatemala and lost 2-0 to Mexico in Los Angeles.

Bilardo was undaunted. "I am not interested in the results of these games. Things would be very different if all of my players were available," he said.

Much, however, will depend upon the physical and emotional condition of Maradona.

Having recovered from the traumatic series of events which led him into a prolonged dispute with his Italian club Napoli and which threatened his future in both Italian and international soccer,

Maradona has begun training in earnest for what could be his last World Cup appearance.

After an unimpressive performance for Argentina in the South American championship won by Brazil last year, he requires a major effort and the recovery of his best form if his contribution to the team is to match that of Mexico in 1986.

"I do not think that Maradona will be out of shape because it would not suit him to fail in what he says might be his last World Cup," said Bilardo, who has remained loyal to his captain.

Maradona, who started the Italian league season late following his now infamous, unauthorised extended holiday, has the advantage of being fresh.

In addition to his late return to duty, holders Napoli were knocked out of the UEFA Cup at an early stage and the explosive forward therefore has reduced demands on his energy between now and the finals.

Another star of the 1986 team who is battling to regain his best form before the 24-team finals begin in June is Jorge Valdano.

He recently returned to professional soccer after leaving Spain's Real Madrid two years ago after a bout of hepatitis.

Valdano, 34, was in good shape in the training sessions prior to Argentina's January tour and it was hoped he would be able to rediscover the skilful and influential midfield form which was an important part of the Mexico triumph.

His inclusion would be a tactical bonus, too, for Bilardo as Valdano has the versatility and intelligence to blend well between midfield and attack in support of Maradona.

Bilardo, who has carefully blended European-style steel with South American skills in his side, says he does not expect any revolutionary new tactics or systems to emerge from the finals in Italy.

He believes all the 24 nations, like Argentina,



CARLOS BILARDO

will play with three defenders, five midfielders and two forwards and that high-quality, imaginative and bold passing will be important.

"The passes will have to be dynamic, fast and with great precision. Our midfielders ended the season with an average of only one goal per year. In Rome they will have to attack to be worth their places," he said.

In Bilardo's view, Argentina have been very fortunate in avoiding a European team and drawing Cameroon as their opponents in the tournament's opening showpiece match in Milan on June 8.

"This favours us since we will not have the pressure that the fans could have put on us in Milan," he explained.

"Argentina will then face the Soviet Union and Romania in Naples... and there I'm sure it will be like being the home team.

"Our group is not one of the most difficult. But neither is it the easiest."

Argentina's preparations for the finals will include a series of warm-up matches in Europe.

On March 28 they play Scotland in Glasgow and a Catalan XI on April 4 to inaugurate the Olympic Stadium in Barcelona.

Later, when all the players have joined the

squad, they will face Austria in Vienna on May 3, Switzerland in Berne on May 8 and Israel in Tel Aviv on May 22.

If those games can help weld the right kind of team spirit in advance of the finals, they may have a chance again, providing they do not approach their group B games in an over-confident way.

"We were drawn in a reasonably easy group. But only if we go into the games with humility and do not think these teams are easy to beat will we advance," said Julio Grondona, president of the Argentine Football Association.

NO TOUR OF STH AFRICA

FIFA refused permission to Sporting Lisbon to tour South Africa though the Portuguese club would have played against two Black-sponsored clubs.

The financially-strapped Sporting's tour would have been financed by South Africa's large Portuguese community, said to number 250,000, but FIFA, which has banned South Africa since 1965, vetoed it.

ENGLISH BONANZA

ENGLAND are on course for a \$2.5 million bonanza from a Wembley friendly against Brazil.

The South Americans' drawing power has seen a massive demand for the stadium's first all-seater international — the capacity is set at 90,000 — on March 28.

"There is a big demand and tickets are selling very quickly," said Wembley spokesman Martin Corrie.

Brazil's last visit, three years ago, saw a 92,000 full house — England's last for a home game — but Wembley receipts this time will top the magic million pound mark for the first time for an international.

It will start a lucrative four-month run-up to the World Cup for England who also have Wembley games against Czechoslovakia on April 25, Denmark (May 15) and Uruguay a week later.



Polonia's Jaroslaw Nowicki in action against Avala last weekend.

Canberra hoodoo still unbroken

BY GRAHAM COOKE

IT has been five years since Inter Monaro last beat Canberra Croatia in a competition game of soccer, and on the basis of the result between the two teams on Sunday, that record is safe for a while yet.

Croatia won 2-0, both goals coming within a minute of each other in the early stages of the second half.

With 59 minutes gone central defender Craig Alchin, who had earlier been booked, tipped Alan Reis over in the penalty area. For Alchin it was an early trip back to the dressing room while Reis got up to send goalkeeper Steve Hoszowski the wrong way with a long kick.

Monaro had not got around to taking measures to compensate for Alchin's absence at the heart of its defence when Ned Zelic received the ball and took it on unchallenged to slam a shot just out of reach of the diving Hoszowski.

That really was an unforgivable mistake, and one that Croatia should have punished further with half-an-hour still to run. Instead it went into its shell.

Vic Fernandez came close to putting Monaro back into the game when his free kick hit the crossbar and it was not until the 39th minute that Croatia really came close to increasing its lead — a cracking drive from George Kulscar that rocked the upright.

Croatia coach Tom Sermanni made it clear his team's performance was not up to the standard he demands from a side which has set its sights on nothing less than the championship.

Monaro can take heart in the display of first team newcomer Frank Danielle, a tough no-nonsense ball winner in the middle of the park with more than a touch of class when in possession.

Fernandez added an extra touch of maturity which will further illuminate his natural skills, while Tilly Carbone was as busy as ever.

INTER MONARO: Hoszowski, Arthur, Grassick, Ambrosino, Alchin (sent off 59), Danielle, Carbone, Fernandez, Janko, Popovich, Chicco (Mericio 70).

CANBERRA CROATIA: Giannasca, Marcina (Jancovski 73), Gagliotti (Pratezola 73), Dunn, Young, Kulscar, Junna, Dukic (Vanzetti 73), Zelic, Lemezina (Mazis 60), Reis.

Entertainment at Knight Park

AVALA defeated Polonia handsomely to the tune of 3-0 at Knight Park last Saturday afternoon but it was the football that won the hearts of the few hundred spectators with both sides committed to entertaining and attacking play.

The scoreline would certainly mislead those who did not watch the game.

Avala took their chances, unlike the previous week, while Polonia squandered theirs and in the end the tricolours celebrated an easy victory.

Avala looked a shade stronger and a trifle more purposeful in the opening 20 minutes, while Polonia made full use of its Polish contingent of six players as one-two's rained all over the place with Jaroslaw Nowicki in tantalising mood for Polonia and Steve Berry and Steve Meades controlling proceedings for Avala.

Nowicki was in full cry, shifting from one flank to the other and generally making life extremely difficult for Avala's defence.

With Pavel Janduda, John Navan, Lasek Kulwicki, Henjek Mojsa and Richard Lasek on the park, Polonia looked strong enough to counter anything Avala could throw at them but without the services of Bruce Thurlow in the first half its defence looked a trifle sluggish.

Miodrag Radovic forced a corner to Avala in the 15th minute. He went limping to the corner flag, placed the ball and chipped it to the near post for John McKie to flick on into the penalty area where Chris Ackerley glided the ball over the line.

Radovic immediately left the field and was replaced by George Athanassi.

Ackerley combined with McKie in the 27th for the ex-NSL star to round one defender on the edge of the box before slamming his shot into the far corner to give Avala its two-goal lead.

Three minutes later, Nowicki was in the clear but hesitated and lost; then came an even better opportunity to John Navan who faced Greg Woodhouse but failed to find the way past the big man.

Woodhouse made yet another superb save in the 53rd minute. Nowicki, with his lightning speed and deft footwork, dazzled Toplica Popovic to fly past the Avala fullback before facing Woodhouse.

His right footer looked destined for the top left hand corner until Woodhouse threw himself wide to tip the ball over the bar.

Nowicki was to suffer further in the 59th minute, this time at the other flank as he appeared to have the speed to go past Vukmirovic but he was late-tackled and his shot flew wide with Woodhouse covering the angle. Nowicki appealed to the referee but to no avail.

Avala had more luck at the other end where a cross by Paolo Benitez was tucked away with the side of his boot by Steve Berry and the score was a flattering 3-0 to the tricolours.

Polonia appealed for yet another penalty with 20 minutes remaining when Nowicki was floored close to the line and inside the penalty area, but with little success.

AVALA: Woodhouse, Popovic, Radic (Vrankovic), Ashton, Vukmirovic, Berry (Menvielle), Meades, Benitez, Radovic (Athanassi), McKie, Ackerley.

POLONIA: Jenkins (Thurlow), G.Thompson (C.Gomez), Chou, Lasek (Robertson), Kulwicki, M.Pratt, Colusso, Mojsa, Navan (Fernandez), Janduda, Nowicki.

GROUP A:	
Avala v Polonia	3-0
Newcastle v Canterbury	5-1
North Shore v Warringah	2-0

GROUP A TABLE	
Newcastle	2 2 0 0 7-2 4
Avala	2 1 1 0 5-2 3
North Shore	2 1 1 0 2-0 3
Warringah	2 0 1 1 2-4 1
Canterbury	2 0 1 1 1-5 1
Polonia	2 0 0 2 1-5 0

GROUP B:	
Croatia v Inter Monaro	2-0
Sutherland v Wollongong Macedonia	0-3
Sydney Macedonia — bye	

GROUP B TABLE	
Wollongong Macedonia	2 1 1 0 5-2 3
Canberra Croatia	1 1 0 0 2-0 2
Sydney Macedonia	1 0 1 0 2-2 1
Inter Monaro	2 0 1 1 1-3 1
Sutherland	2 0 1 1 1-4 1

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA V SUTHERLAND REPORT ON PAGE 19



STEVE WATSON — plans to call it quits.

Watson to retire

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

STEVE WATSON, Canterbury Marrickville Olympic's newly-signed goalkeeper, shocked club officials late last week when he announced he wants to retire.

Canterbury signed the 33-year-old Watson from Blacktown City for a transfer fee of \$4,000 and he has been training with the club in preparation for the start of the two-conference NSW State League.

Watson disclosed to Canterbury officials that he wants to spend more time with his family and that the

travelling time to go to training is too much for him.

Club president Andrew Vass will call a meeting this week to see what action the club will take in a situation which has placed the Berries in a most vulnerable position.

Last season's custodian, former Australian youth squad member, Chris Hummel, has already announced his retirement, although only 26 years of age, due to pressure at his place of employment as a sales representative with the Daily Mirror.

Bass, Jeffery devastating

CRAIG Bass and Glen Jeffery, one-time partners at Gladesville, are back in business for North Shore as they hammered a goal apiece to provide the goals that sunk Warringah Freshwater 2-0 last Saturday afternoon at Knight Park.

Alan Ferguson hit the post early as North Shore outpaced and outran its opponents in the opening period.

However, Craig Bass was at his bustling best in the 25th as he rose high to head past ex-team mate Andrew Prentice for the opening goal of the game.

North Shore held a slight advantage throughout and looked satisfied with its one-goal lead going into the last minute of play.

Craig McCall broke through on the left flank to send in a cur-

ling cross which bounced off the turf to deceive young John Ruperto. The ball clearly bounced off his arm and Glen Jeffery planted the ball under the crossbar from the resultant penalty kick.

Wayne Pearce, an ex-Warringah Freshwater player, almost scored twice during this game as his fierce left foot shots gave Prentice some cause for alarm.

Warringah appear to be struggling for pace and strength but must be happy to have had an exciting young prospect in its side in Frank Cigliotti who came on for Ayden Grimes and showed some nice touches, with skills to burn at both feet.

Watch out for this lad in the near future.

NORTH SHORE: Thornton, Gillan, Gough, Pearce, Crooks (Roldan), Bennett, Norman (McCall), Ferguson, Hunter, Bass, Jeffery. WARRINGAH FRESHWATER: Prentice, Glascock (Pasalich), Sterray, Etherington, Morson (Pillemer), Masi, DeCeglie, Osowski, Giannone, Grimes (Cigliotti), McGreen.

Under 16 strikers required

ONLY one striker turned out for the first NSW under 16 trial, and that has left NSW Director of Coach David Lee tearing out the rest of his silvery hair out.

Actually, only 15 players came to the trials. Surely there are many more who wish to find places in the NSW squad.

Players have to be born after August 1

1973, and, as Lee put, "they have to be quick, well-balanced and competitive."

The future for successful, well-motivated youngsters is unlimited, as they would be in line for places in the 1993 Australian youth team.

Any youngsters who believe they have what it takes should phone Director of Coaching David Lee on 629 1800 without delay.



Austral trounce Berries

NEWCASTLE Austral is at the top of group A after demolishing Canterbury Marrickville Olympic at Austral Park last Sunday afternoon to the tune of 5-1.

Newcastle with Craig Carrer in goal and David Bowen, Mike Boogaard, Howard Treddinick and David Jones in defence looked rock-solid in the opening half making life difficult for the likes of Louis Dounis and Nick Oustambasidis.

Canterbury, committed to attack, failed to cover at the back allowing for Howard Treddinick to launch a quick counter-attack which provided Newcastle's tall midfielder Wayne Bailey with an opportunity on the edge of the penalty area. He lobbed Kuprianou to make it 1-0 in the 37th minute.

David Jones and Bobby Naumov provided the spadework for Doug Elphick on the stroke of an hour to hammer home number two and it all looked a lost cause for the visitors from then on.

George Kalogeras waltzed past some three would-be tacklers with 20 minutes remaining to give Canterbury a ray of hope, but the home side hit back with three goals in the next 10 minutes to put the issue beyond doubt.

Almost from the kick-off Newcastle again had its two-goal advantage. Bobby Naumov took a corner kick from the right hand side and Wayne Bailey nodded on for Mike Boogaard to hammer one past Kuprianou.

Three minutes later Simon Brandt latched onto a loose ball and the writing was on the wall with the score at 4-1.

With eight minutes remaining, Brett Porter beat the keeper but not the fullback who handled on the line and Naumov made no mistake from the resultant penalty kick to end the scoring at 5-1 to Newcastle.

Tempers flared in the closing stages with five players being booked and two sent off.

NEWCASTLE AUSTRAL: Carrer, Bowen, Boogaard, Treddinick, Jones, McWhirter (Roberts), Naumov, Bailey, Brandt, Achurch (Elphick), Devon (Porter).

CANTERBURY: Kuprianou, Adamov, Hantzis, Papoythis, Radman, Divljak, Godzik, Kalogeras, Hill, Dounis, Oustambasidis.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 ROUND-ROBIN

THIRD ROUND
Saturday, March 10
Group A

Avala v Newcastle BHP Austral — Knight Park 4.30pm
Canterbury M'ville v Warringah Freshwater — Chopin Park 2.30pm
Polonia v North Shore United — Chopin Park 4.30pm

Group B

Canberra Croatia v Sutherland Shire — Deakin Oval 4pm
Sydney Macedonia v Inter Monaro — Knight Park 2.30pm
Wollongong Macedonia bye

World Cup is no recipe for success

BY GREG BLAKE

IT'S official — Australia's national coaching position will carry a salary of \$100,000.

The bait is set and the lure is about to be cast into the water with world-wide advertising of the position.

Opinions are divided on just what type of person should be appointed and mine are no more valid than the thousands of others proffered since we learned that Frank Arok was no longer a walk-up start.

But for mine an insider is certainly the only man for the job with four names — Eddie Thomson, Berti Mariani, Zoran Matić and Rale Rasic — the best possibilities.

Personally, I have difficulty coming to terms with the fact that we need to advertise outside Australia at all.

Surely, our experiences with Jimmy Shoulder, Brian Green and Rudi Gutendorf have taught us some lessons.

But regardless of that aspect of the debate, I'm not even sure that the idea of bringing in a highly paid coach to replace Arok is good value anyway.

The last time I suggested in a newspaper column that our obsession with repeating our trip to the World Cup finals was absurd and a waste of too much time, effort and money, I was shot down in flames on any number of fronts.

But again I must question the validity of claims that getting Australia back into the finals at any price is worth the effort.

I do not think it really matters.

The bid to repeat the efforts of our 1974 heroes has taken on epic proportions and I'm not so sure that that's healthy for the game back here at home.

The obsession of Australia and the World Cup isn't worth the effort.

Holy grail

The holy grail of another finals appearance is a pointless and futile exercise unless we accept it for what it would prove to be, an excuse for back-slapping in high places, a moment of glory for 30-odd athletes and some fleeting short-term publicity.

Meanwhile, the domestic game continues to fall down around our ears.

Let's look at our trip to West Germany back in 1974.

Unlike other minnows like Haiti and Zaire the Aussies weren't thrashed in any game and, indeed, the Socceroos covered themselves in glory.

But did our fleeting finals appearance, as all subsequent appearances would be given the class of opposition, help or hinder the game in this country?

I maintain that it didn't make a scap of difference in the long term.

That World Cup appearance didn't elevate the game to rugby or Aussie rules status overnight, it didn't pull enormous crowds of newcomers into our stadiums, it didn't give us any long-term media credibility (our administrators have shot themselves in the foot too many times to ever get the media inside) and it didn't automatically encourage thousands of youngsters to take up the game.

Indeed subsequent failures to make the finals, as we chase the holy grail and fail, have only served to discourage the best of young players to try their luck overseas.

Problems

Now that they know they can head overseas and gain international success in their own right, the player drain will not stop just because the Socceroos gain another trip to the World Cup finals.

And success at Socceroo level has not then and would not now automatically ensure the success of domestic competition.

There is, as we have seen so often, little follow-on effect from the crowds who barrack for the green and gold to those at NSL or State League matches.

I'll concede that it is important for Australia to participate with reasonable success at international level but the officials insisting that another brief excursion into the finals will bring about some sort of golden era for the game in this country are way off the mark.

An instant of fleeting excitement can hardly be expected to solve the plethora of problems facing the domestic game.

In '74 our efforts were at least worthy of some praise and with some luck we might have even notched a win against Chile the final group game.

But three straight wins wouldn't have transformed soccer into the national code, just as three huge defeats wouldn't have dramatically altered the behaviour and attitude of supporters of the code.

As I said, the whole episode meant little in terms of long-term success or failure.

In places such as Italy, West Germany, England and Argentina the game has experienced boom periods following World Cup wins.

But the foundations are already laid in those countries, support which lies dormant until celebrations of such a feat begin.

But in Australia soccer has been, is and al-



RALE RASIC: he got us to our one and only World Cup finals, but how important is it, Greg Blake wants to know — cartoon courtesy DAILY TELEGRAPH

ways will be a minority sport and regarded as a largely 'ethnic' pastime.

I believe the financial sacrifices made for the supposed honour of making the finals just aren't worth making in countries where the game isn't even close to being the national sport.

It's a futile effort if we honestly believe that even a very successful World Cup series, a quarter-final berth perhaps, would oust rugby league or Aussie rules as the national football codes.

A successful World Cup campaign could build on a groundswell of local support certainly.

But to have that initial interest we would have to boast completely competent administration, press support, decent grounds and facilities, a flow-on of home-grown youngsters into senior football (sadly the large number of juniors playing the game ignore the code by the time they are in their mid-teens) and more active spectator support for the sport and not just their own club.

Sadly we boast none

of this.

The ONSL and State League competitions would, I suspect, gladly accept much of the money invested in the Socceroos and under-age international teams and use it to put the game right at home.

Essential

For our international youth teams, particularly in recent times when we've shown that we've a genuine chance of winning something sometime, the experience is invaluable.

Sadly by the time many of these young Socceroos are experienced enough to play regular senior football they are off overseas anyway and play only bit-parts in the senior Australian team picture.

For the senior team it is essential that we play international football, if only to retain the only high-profile media coverage the Socceroos have now — and even that is pretty poor.

But I suspect World Cup finals participation is not essential, even if desirable.

we probably don't deserve to be there anyway.

To claim we made it in '74 meant little then or now.

Were the Aussies of 1974 really better than the likes of England, France or Spain, all countries which missed the West German finals?

I doubt it. FIFA have got it right. If we make it we will deserve to.

If we don't there's no harm done.

A World Cup appearance — like an Olympic games medal in women's hockey — only has very brief appeal to the press or the general public.

Fluke

A national triumph which lasts a few days at best and then peters out as we fall back into our day-to-day business.

If we could fluke another finals appearance the daily press would rear its head for a

moment or two before selecting another victim for five minutes of fame.

Do we seriously think success every four years would wipe racing, golf, tennis, cricket or rival football codes from the back pages forever?

As I said, there a few, if any long lasting benefits to be had by making the World Cup finals for a Third World soccer nation like Australia.

So let's stop this obsession for Socceroo success now and concentrate our efforts on the domestic game.

If we could build the local game up gradually another World Cup appearance might be the icing on the cake.

But by largely ignoring the game on a day-to-day basis and then expecting a miraculous explosion of interest by making the World Cup finals is foolhardy.

It's as absurd as building your dream home on a quicksand base.

Victorian season is put on hold

BY GREG BLAKE

THE Victorian Super League will not go ahead as planned and the senior Victorian season has been put on hold pending the outcome of a Victorian Soccer Federation board meeting to be held as ASW went to press.

A Soccer House press release late last week indicated that the State League will go ahead with its first two rounds this coming weekend, with Round 1 on Saturday and Round 2 on Monday's Moomba public holiday.

But the composition of the State League and even the amount of clubs to be involved was unknown as we went to press.

The proposed revised State League schedule involves 18 teams and a 34-round season.

But eleven of the 12 clubs originally set to play in the 'Super League' have drafted a proposal that they hope will elevate them to a separate NSL Second Division.

The proposal was set to go before the VSF State League Management Committee on Monday and, if passed, to the VSF Board of Management on Tuesday night.

It is then up to the VSF Board of Management to decide whether to pass the proposal on to the Australian Soccer Federation.

The last-minute bid by the 11 former Super League clubs to maintain a separate competition from the State League comes at the end of a traumatic 10

days for Victorian Soccer.

Last Tuesday the Supreme Court virtually killed off any VSF plans for a 'Super League' when Mr Justice Gray decided in favour of the five dissenting clubs — Fawkner, Albion, Box Hill, Mooroolbark and Ringwood City — and awarded in excess of \$17,000 costs against the Federation.

The five clubs — all which had missed the cut for the Super League and were facing a season in a 12-team State League First Division — had claimed that the Federation had acted against its own rules in dividing the competition in that fashion.

The judge agreed that the VSF had breached its promotion and relegation rules which stipulate that the top two clubs in each division should be promoted and the bottom two relegated.

The VSF had used the top 10 clubs from last year's State League plus two relegated NSL clubs to form the Super League and the bottom six from last season

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Reflections on a Sunday afternoon of soccer

BY MIKE JOHNSON



IF Soccer investigator Dr Graham Bradley still seeks to discover the make-up of modern Australian soccer he should have come with me last Sunday as I attended three games in the Sydney metropolitan area.

First of all I refereed a game of midday between my NSW Federation Second Division club, Southern Districts, and the Federation Fourth Division club, Ninety.

Southern Districts is Turkish sponsored and comprises players of numerous nationalities including English, Irish, Chilean, Assyrian, Greek, Croatian and Russian.

Most of these players are born here or grew up here. I can see that the Assyrians are very keen on the game, and are generally well trained.

Ninety is Assyrian backed, with most of its players of Assyrian background.

Assyria is an Arab nation and we know that Arab peoples along with South American and Asian people are our most recent migrants here.

The Australian

migration policy has not ceased numerous migrants from Arab countries, Asia and South America will come into Australia during the next decades.

Many will play sport. Some will play league, union and Aussie rules, some basketball or baseball, but most will play soccer. Soccer is their first love game.

Some will even play cricket and gradually the Australian test team will be Anglophobic. Names of Taylor, Moody, Boon, Jones, Border, Waugh, Healey, Hughes, Lawson and Peter Taylor will become sprinkles with Said, Younan, Akdag, Gök, Udor, Chahim. Just as soccer is their first love.

Soccer in Australia is now a multi-cultural activity more so than any other activity in Australian life.

One cannot say the same of basketball. Basketball is a white game with limited skills just as is indoor soccer which only uses 20% of the qualities needed to play outdoor soccer.

Yes, basketball and indoor soccer may need the hype and hoopla that currently characterise basketball promotion, but unlike Greg Blake I believe soccer does not need that type

of infantile baloney.

Soccer is the world's greatest team game and stands in its own good sound administration.

After finishing the game against Ninety, I went on to Garside Park, the old home of Granville Soccer Club, the oldest semi-professional soccer club in Australia.

Granville Soccer Club was more than 100 years old before it died a few years ago and was sold out to a Chilean soccer group.

It is now called Granville Chile.

Many are saddened by the demise of this old Australian club which indeed was older than many clubs in England, the home of soccer.

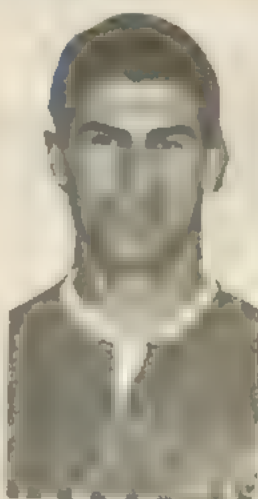
The fact is, however, that Australia has seen soccer since many years ago, for a variety of reasons.

Many of the reasons are those similar to the desertion of state cricket grounds by traditional Aussie people who now will not attend Sheffield Shield games.

These Aussie cricket watchers have many more alternatives today, and exercise them and usually will only come out in numbers for international games.

They adopt the same attitude with soccer.

But the ethnic mig-



ABBAS SAAD

rant still loves his soccer is a player and is a spectator, and it is they who are sustaining soccer today and will do so for a long time - both as players and spectators.

Television plus other mass media, aided by skilful marketing and sponsorship, sustains Aussie rules, rugby union and league in Australia, but world wide they are a non-entity as is American football.

Some years ago I played at Garside Park for Sutherland against Granville.

The place was dead, hardly a spectator to be seen.

Last Sunday, on a sunny day for an unimportant practice game between Chile and Ava-

la, there were hundreds scattered around Garside Park and it was a happy place to be.

Chileans have a happy disposition and absolutely love their soccer, just as do the Yugoslavs.

Old timers were skilful players, such as I never saw when I arrived in Sydney, Australia in the 60s.

The ethnic can play the traditional Anglo-Aussies, with exceptions, can only stop others from playing.

In the early evening we went on to the National League game between Sydney Olympic and Melita at St George Stadium.

Atmosphere

What a great atmosphere with the Melita cheer squad in session.

Drums going the whole gamut through and the Greek supporters further as ever in their commitment to Olympic.

What is happiness?

Happiness is a Sydney Olympic supporter after his team has scored two goals in the last two minutes to beat Melita 2-0.

I do not recall ever seeing so many people with such large smiles and so much momentary happiness as I did at the remarkable climax to that game that night.

It is great to sit among

the Olympic crowd to see and feel their passion for the game.

What an exciting game it was on a summer's night with people cheering in above our heads the incessant drumming and chanting of the Melita faithful, the spread of belated tears of Olympic Olympians, the blue and white flames and on the field the committed players, strong, every nerve and muscle to give win.

Washington, Gonzales, isn't that a great name for a great player, all class, honest, over many years playing the game he loves.

Greg Brown, full of power, a beating ball, a Mike Tyson of the soccer field, so fierce in his assault on the goal.

Good, steady, reliable, a midfielder, a player I like, but never appeared in a match, substituted wrongly, a double substitution which mistimed.

My midfielder Hago Gimenez, having to mix it with the powerful Olympic players, when he would liked to have concentrated more on skill.

Abbas Saad, always, deft, now often scintillating and gaining the assurance that consistent brilliance brings.

Robbie Hooker, a

soccer of soccer came into the picture, I was joined by his impressive two-footed kicking skills.

Nick Platano is full of the brushiness and certainty of the young, the wild youth with painted face, long high stepping legs, long strong body, thrown around with wild abandon, but with increasing effort.

Cliff Gosling, the captain, who became a brilliant butterfly during the close season.

The metamorphosis of a sportsperson can take place dramatically from one season to the next.

We saw it in the range that overtook a Sydney soccer player, a player who was once called a great player, during the tour of England.

Cliff Gosling, in the short break between winter and summer national league, threw off the coat hiding a great talent that one had not suspected was there.

Now he has emerged as a truly outstanding goalkeeper who will give great service to his country and club for years to come.

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BERTI MARIANI
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National team bunglo has lasted too long

BY FRANK SCULLINA

IT can never happen anywhere else, not even in poverty stricken third world countries.

Of course I'm referring to the tragic situation our various Socceroo teams find themselves in a full twelve months after elimination from the World Cup.

A whole year has passed since it became obvious to everybody — including the man himself — that Frank Arok's days as national coach were well and truly over, yet a decision on appointing his successor is still to be made.

And why was so much valuable time allowed to go to waste?

The answer is now shamefully clear — money — nothing more than simply dollars and cents!

Arok himself has admitted that he never intended to re-apply for the job but was not prepared to resign and lose the salary he was contracted to receive, as most of it apparently went into the battle for his club's economic survival.

The ASF on the other hand flatly refused to sack him and be forced to pay out his contract. Therefore a ridiculous charade of deception was played out for all that time in the name of the almighty dollar, and to hell with the untold damage inflicted on our national team.

Now that the apparent circumstances behind Arok's prolonged but inevitable departure have come out into the open, it's become quite clear that the ASF's priorities are based more on cost effective measures than to provide what's in the best interests of the Socceroos.

It also makes it much easier to take a calculated gamble and wager a small bet on who our new national coach is most likely to be.

In fact, I personally would not be at all surprised if a deal had already been worked out, thus reducing the world wide advertising of the position to merely an expensive and time wasting continuation of the whole pretence.

Surely nobody can really expect any self respecting, high profile and fully qualified overseas coach to be attracted by the



EDDIE THOMSON

\$100,000 a year salary on offer.

While that sort of money cannot be sneezed at by our standards, it will not tempt anyone who's much better than what we already have.

amount of money saved will enable a fulltime assistant to be appointed who will take a lot of the load off Thomson's shoulders.

What's more, if the ASF is prepared to bite the bullet and



MANFRED SCHAEFER

So, assuming one of our local coaches was always going to be given the job, the man most favoured to get it must be the National Director of Coaching, Eddie Thomson.

I believe he may not necessarily be the best available — but he will be the cheapest.

It will cost much less to combine both jobs and that alone will prove to be far too tempting a proposition for the cost-conscious ASF to ignore.

Thomson himself is adamant that he can carry out both duties without great difficulty, and has long confessed his desire to take over from Arok.

The substantial

announce Thomson's appointment immediately, I think there's little doubt that he would be willing to take over without additional salary until such time as Arok's contract expires in July.

This will enable the ASF to escape from any extra financial commitments while giving Thomson the valuable extra few months in which to formulate his plans for the tough battles ahead.

With all due respect to Thomson's considerable past achievements, I must admit to not being a great fan of his style of football and remain to be convinced

that he's the best man for the job.

People like Zoran Matic, Raul Blanco, Bertl Mariani, Rale Rasic and Manfred Schaefer have just as much, if not more, to offer the Socceroos but that's only my own personal opinion.

If he can achieve the same success for Australia that he did at Sydney City who am I to complain?

At any rate, Thomson is the one who holds the Director of Coaching position.

If my assumption that he's already earmarked for the Socceroo job because of it is correct, then for goodness sake let him get on with it straight away.

Twelve precious months have already been wasted because of the procrastination of our leaders, and, with the immediate future of the national team at stake, the time has come for them to accept the responsibilities of making the hard decisions for which they were elected.

NSW Challenge Cup

BY KEITH GILMOUR

PRIZEMONEY of \$7000 is up for grabs in the NSW Challenge Cup competition, which kicks off on the weekend of March 31/April 1.

Competing will be the 12 non-NSL member clubs of the NSW State League, in 2x6 team divisions.

The play-off between the divisional winners takes place on May 6, with the winner receiving \$5,000 and the loser \$2,000.

The competition will be run on a novel basis, with aggregate point scores of the first grade and under 19 teams deciding the winner.

First grade will be run on the basis of 4 points for a win, 1 for a draw and 0 for a loss.

In under 19 the arrangement is 2 for a win 1 for a draw and 0 for a loss.

NSW Federation general manager Ian Holmes said: "The Federation had to resolve two competing imperatives — to get the State League clubs more games, whilst at the same time avoiding an overlap of the NSL season so that the winner gains promotion to the NSL."

"The re-arrangement means that the 12 clubs get at least five serious Challenge Cup matches plus 16 in the premiership, which brings up 21 games."

The 21 games falls well short of the absolute minimum 25 matches aim of some clubs.

As it stood clubs were only to get 10/11 home games.

There is clearly a degree of unhappiness amongst the clubs, with some stating they

would rather have three full rounds without NSL club intervention.

Mr Holmes admitted that the competition scheme was "not totally ideal," and stated he believed it was the best available solution.

Five NSL clubs have entered the NSW State League, fielding Under 23 teams which can be supplemented with up to four overage players.

NSW teams can apply to secure guest players.

It could be quite embarrassing to the NSW Federation if the under 23 entries from the NSL clubs were at the top of the league, and perhaps even took out the 'promotion' position.

"New blood was needed in the (State League) competition."

"In addition the NSL clubs can ensure that many of their players are match fit."

"Also the under 23s with national team aspirations will be well serviced," Mr Holmes added.

When it comes to the State League kick-off on May 12/13, the composition of the two conferences will be.

Conference A: Avala, BHP Austral, Canberra Croatia, Marconi Fairfield, Rockdale Ilinden, Sydney Macedonia, Sydney Olympic, Warringah Freshwater, Wollongong City.

Conference B: Canterbury Marrickville, Inter Monaro, North Shore United, Polonia, St George, Sydney Croatia, Sutherland Shire, Wollongong Macedonia, plus relegated NSL team.

Canberra leads NSW rebellion

WRITES GRAHAM COOKE

CANBERRA Croatia is leading a rebellion of NSW State League soccer clubs against the proposed fixture arrangements for the 1990 season.

Secretary Bert Kret believes it can succeed in bringing about changes ahead of the April 1 kick-off.

"This will give time for any (NSW State League) promoted club to prepare for the QNSL which begins in October."

Kret said Croatia is not opposing the entry of the QNSL teams into the competition "That has been agreed and we should not go back on it."



IAN HOLMES

"I have been in touch with the other 11 first division clubs and every one is against the current set-up," Kret said.

"We are all sending letters of protest to the secretary of the first division sub committee, Ziv Napra and he will put them before a meeting of the NSW Soccer Federation."

"I do not believe the Federation can ignore the united opposition of all its first division members."

NSW Soccer Federation general secretary Ian Holmes says the reason for the new look competition is the need to accommodate the NSW Out National Soccer League clubs who will be entering under 23 teams with up to four over-age players.

"That, together with one relegated team from the QNSL, will give us 18 clubs, and with the necessity to complete our fixtures in advance of the 1990-91 QNSL season, we simply do not have the time for two full rounds," he said.

Mr Holmes said the plan is for the 18 clubs to be divided into two groups of nine.

The clubs in each group will play each other twice, but the records will appear as one combined league table.

"The season proper will kick off on the weekend of March 31-April 1 and will be finished by August 4-5 followed by our top-four play offs."

"But we are against a 16-game season. We have made \$100,000 worth of improvements to our ground at Deakin Oval this summer."

"Under the present arrangements we will have done that for eight home games."

"We are pushing for a further single round between the nine teams in the opposite group giving a 25 game season."

Kret is backed by Canberra Croatia player coach Tom Sermanni, who says the NSW State League should not be run to suit a few QNSL teams who want to play year round soccer.

"How can a progressive club, like Croatia, hope to survive on a 13-game season?" he said.

"We aim to win promotion but if we don't we are faced by a situation where we have no income-producing games from mid-August to the following March."

"That's a recipe for financial ruin."

"And the club has already sold several hundred season tickets on the basis our supporters will not be seeing any less home games than last year. Now we can only offer them eight."

"Over and above anything else, the players want to play."

And how can we be certain of the commitment of the QNSL clubs? One week they could have strong teams with a full complement of over-age players — the next they could have just youth team members."

Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .

IT has been confirmed that Apia's Milan Blagojevic will be out for at least five months after undergoing knee reconstruction last week. He has the same injury as Zlatko Nasrteski.

DAVE REZO hopes to be back in action soon after recovering from a knee injury which has kept him sidelined since leaving Sydney Croatia for Melita Eagles on a free transfer before Christmas.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD soccer writer Michael Cockerill, now back from a visit to Zagreb, reports that former referee Tony Boskovic is alive and well, residing outside Zagreb and making a mint from renting a block of flats he owns in Austria.

SYDNEY CROATIA's four-match tour of Croatia in July has almost been finalised. They will play Dinamo Zagreb, Hajduk Split, Zagreb and Gosk.

SUNSHINE teenagers Wayne Attard and Kevin Muscat, both aged 18, made their QNSL first team debut under caretaker coach Ian Greener while Ernie Merrick was visiting his ailing father in Scotland.

And both have been impressive — so much so that their maturity and discipline might have earned them permanent first squad berths.

EX-Socceroo Wally Savor will consider hanging up his boots if he does not recover from his current injury.

Savor injured his left knee against Apia last Sunday week.

The reliable defender was also forced out of Australia's Olympic

squad by the same injury in 1988.

LES SCHEINFLUG has no intention applying for the position of national coach.

He says his only interest is in coaching youngsters — which is understandable considering the success he has achieved with the Young Socceroos and the Joeys in the past.

Scheinflug has not coached since he was forced to quit Blacktown City seven weeks ago.

Australian Soccer Federation general secretary Alan Vessey is spitting chips over FIFA's change to create a second round World Youth Cup play-off between the two Oceania leaders and Israel.

Assuming we qualify for the play-off (Papua New Guinea, Sept 1990), we are up for an additional \$35,000 for players' wages and expenses, even though FIFA will cover our fares to and from Israel and the Israelis will pay for accommodation," he

FIFA admits Guam, Tahiti and Tonga at its next meeting, there could be additional entrants to swell out the match schedules.

PETER KATHOLOS has no doubt Marconi is on course for their third successive QNSL title.

"The team is playing better than last season. We have much more experience and the tour of Czechoslovakia in January has made us believe in ourselves more than ever. We're unstoppable now," he claimed.

Wednesday.

PAUL Wade has been playing the last two weeks with a gaping hole in his bottom lip — courtesy of a clash of heads with Preston's Zoran Tasevski.

It has not hindered his game, but his main worry is he must stay away from salt and vinegar and can't eat his favourite dish of fish and chips.

Re our item last week on the DAILY MIRROR not offering tickets to the World Cup as part of its "dream" sporting holiday — the reason why the FA Cup final is being offered as a prize is because Qantas are part-sponsors and they don't fly to Rome.

Sorry if we offended anyone.

THE COACHING instructors' course recently held at the Australian Institute of Sport was a great success, ASF staff coach Steve Darby reports.

There were 25 in attendance, with the only disappointment being the enforced absence of National Coaching Director Eddie Thomson because of a family illness. Course participants, all qualified Level 2 coaches, can now apply to Darby to run a level 0 to 1 course and award certificates, something which, it is hoped, will boost the number of basically qualified people in charge of junior teams in the ACT area.

DAVID Clarkson is likely to be out for the remainder of the summer season. The Sunshine George Cross midfielder has suffered a bad groin injury.

UNDER 13 teams from Brazil, the Soviet Union, New Zealand, Greece, NSW and Victoria are taking part in an international tournament in Melbourne this week as part of the Moomba Festival.

FORMER star goalkeeper Steve Hoszowski has moved to NSW State League club Inter Monaro of Queanbeyan from ACT First Division club, Weston Creek. His arrival could signal the return of Manuel Notaras from Inter to the ACT's popular Belconnen club, where he began his career.

Incidentally, former Canberra City stalwart Steve Bryant will be linking up at the Marco Polo ground



Turkish-born Aytec Genc has been one of the success stories for Melita Eagles this season, carrying his promotion-winning NSW State League form into the tough grind of the QNSL — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

with established stars John Walsh, Mike Milovanovic and Matt Collins.

FORMER ASF secretary Brian Emery will again serve as a FIFA general co-ordinator at the World Cup finals in Italy.

Emery filled a similar position at the 1986 finals in Mexico and at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

ZORAN MATIC has ruled himself out as an applicant for the position of national coach. He says he does not believe in replying to ads for coaching jobs.

While on the subject of national coach, JOHN KOSMINA feels that Eddie Thomson should have the Socceroo and national director's jobs. Thomson has made no secret of the fact he has applied for Frank Arok's vacant position. He too believes he can hold both jobs concurrently.

MELBOURNE Croatia captain Josip Biskic will miss the rest of the regular season. He flew to Europe last week to be with the family of his brother

who was killed in a car accident.

KIWI international Declan Edge has left SA to return to New Zealand.

But the little winger, who has been hampered in SA with a recurring rib injury, is likely to be invited back for the start of next season.

Inter Monaro coach Harry Williams would like to see the number of substitutes allowed in NSW State League games raised from two to four. Four are permitted in the current pre-season competition and Williams is all in favour of the arrangement after Monaro's opening 1-1 draw with Sutherland. "It was good to have the extra flexibility that four substitutes brings," the former Socceroo said. "You can make two or three tactical changes and still keep one back to cover for the emergency injury which can occur at any time in a game."

"Rugby league recognises the value of four substitutions, so why not soccer?"



Melbourne Croatia coach Ivan Raznjevic — a US citizen — has done wonders since taking over the Victorian club. Raznjevic said this week he had not applied for the vacant position of Australian national team coach.

Denes Adrigan Scholarships

THE NSW Coaches' Federation and the NSW Soccer Federation, in memorial to the late Denes Adrigan, are offering free goalkeeping tuition to six under 12 goalkeepers.

Denes Adrigan's contribution to the game should not be forgotten and he would be more than pleased to be remembered that way.

The offer consists of free tuition for six

goalkeepers over an eight-week period at Valentine Sports Park. At the end of that period one keeper will be selected to be brought in during school holidays for 60 hours of additional coaching.

Goalkeepers born after 8.1.77 interested in a trial should contact the NSW Director of Coaching, Mr David Lee, on 629 1800 before March 19.

said

But one of Australia's troubles is that the New Zealand FA has supported the two Oceania teams going on, instead of getting the whole thing finished in Port Moresby. Obviously a complaint to FIFA could end up like water off a duck's back as Israel must have done a deal of arm twisting.

Possible World Youth Cup round one competitors in Papua New Guinea in September are Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Western Samoa, plus Australia, New Zealand and host Papua New Guinea. But, if

ZELJKO Jurin has walked out on Brunswick Juventus and returned to Sydney.

Jurin, who was playing in the Italian Third Division, went to Juventus apparently being offered a \$10,000 signing-on fee and \$380 a match. Jurin claims he has yet to be paid while in Melbourne.

RAUL BLANCO is another coach who is a fan of Adelaide City. "They play delightful football and away from home they are masters of the counter-attack," he said — which did not prevent his Melita Eagles team beating the South Australians 2-1 in a deferred match last

The St George revolution

PART 1

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THERE is no gain-saying that youth coaching has come a fair distance in Australia over recent years.

Equally it can be said that, examining the position over the club coaching scene as well as the coaching service and the Australian Institute of Sport, coaching of players has not reached the stage where there is a reasonable uniformity of methods.

New National Coaching Director Eddie Thomson was schooled in the cauldron of Scottish football.

He knows the Australian scene backwards, holds a Level 4 FIFA badge, and will be earnestly studying and implementing ideas gleaned from Europe and South America after already having looked over the Asian scene.

Under the now retired Eddie Worthington the coaching arena was set up and maintained almost entirely in the British school.

Soccer publicist, ex-Socceroo captain and ASW columnist John Warren, is enthused by the matchless skills of the Brazilians, as well as the South American scene generally.

He is completely sold on the possibilities of Australian youth improving from utilising the skills of indoor (futsal) game.

NSW has benefitted from the enthusiasm and exceptional Australian background of its Director, David Lee who spent eight whole years in trying to break into the fulltime ranks before the gate was finally opened to him.

Certainly the other identifiable group stems from the Yugoslav school, and comes in the persons of high profile, super energetic Frank Arok and co-worker Richard Alagich.

Arok's long history with St George and the national team has been well chronicled.

Although he has not achieved the ultimate crown of securing a World Cup finals place for the Socceroos in the World Cup campaigns, his successes on average are undoubted.

Not the least of his Socceroo achievements was that fabulous 1988 4-1 Gold Cup win over World Cup holders, Argentina.

Less known is the fact that he was president of the Yugoslav Coaches' Association, prior to his last trip to Australia.

Of lower profile is Alagich



RICHARD ALAGICH — putting the St George apprentices through their paces.

A Sydney high school PE teacher born in Broken Hill, he spent seven years working in football and similar disciplines in Yugoslavia, where he completed no less than three degree courses.

Arok and Alagich have all but completed the curriculum of a course aimed at developing the cream of Australian youth through to the standards that the professionalism of Brazil, USSR, England, West Germany, Italy, Argentina and Yugoslavia demand.

It is no accident that these countries are always on the job when each World Cup final series comes around.

Also working on the project at St George club level are NSW schoolboy coach David Jrisa, goalkeeping specialist Fred Wall, Des Marton and Greg Ankudinoff.

Just as the scheme applies to the St George apprentices, it can equally be used for other major clubs, regional and state squads.

Only the tyranny of distance would prevent its implementation on the national scale.

Before exploring the St George scheme in depth, first let us over-

view the National League and Socceroo scene through the penetrating eyes of Richard Alagich.

"It is all well and good to criticise NSL teams.

"They are the best players we have and they are doing their best.

"When it comes to the national team and reaching the World Cup finals, we are just missing out.

I don't believe it is a matter of tactics.

"The question is: why are the leading nations always there?"

"The answer is simple. It lies in the grass roots.

"All those countries have well established youth development or apprenticeship schemes.

"Many of them systematically develop youth players over a period of seven or eight years.

"As a result of their programmes they are able to develop players to the highest degree."

Then comes the punchline.

"Australian football has to implement similar schemes.

"There has to be enormous motivation."

"We are setting up the apprenticeship

scheme at St George Stadium, and there will be no fiddling around."

The Saints' apprenticeship scheme includes an April camp at Kyeemagh and another at Narrabeen in July.

The young players will have a constant work plan 46 weeks of the year.

The plan runs 1st week: 7 sessions 2nd week: 8, 3rd week: 9, 4th week: 10, and then the sequence is repeated.

Basic sessions are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 6 AM; Sunday morning at 8 AM.

The morning sessions are devoted to speed work, explosive foot strength, co-ordination and endurance.

Two organised games are played each week — one Thursday and the other at the weekend.

Other sessions involve techniques, tactics and ball work.

Overall four technique tactical sessions, two games and four sessions on physical and motor ability are involved.

Time is split with 58% going to situation preparation.

This involves situations expected in games using the ball in attack and defence, moving in support and finishing in the front third of the park.

The balance of the time is divided 21% each to universal preparation and basic preparation.

Next week we look at the culmination of St George's dynamic plan, which is designed to lift the capacity of Australian players to equal the world's best.

Former referee passes on

JOHN Morton, a former NSW State League referee and wing half of the 1930s, died in Sydney last Sunday week at the age of 80.

He refereed at the highest level in his era — in NSW v Queensland games.

In the late 1940s he became president of then NSW Second Division club Concord, playing against such clubs as Auburn, Bankstown and Hakoah.

Most of his contemporaries have passed on. ASW expresses condolences to his wife Dulcie and the family.



Best saga

I object to having to read one side of a story and having it labelled "THE TRUTH BEHIND THE BEST AND LAW SAGA".

I am writing on behalf of the children and parents of NSW who paid large sums of money for the junior promotion.

I have been inundated with calls about this matter.

1. Especially the girl from Grafton who travelled to Valentine Park, where only Denis Law turned up after lunch. Best was never sighted and the day was cut short by 1 1/2 hours.

2. Or the boy from Lindfield who travelled to Marsfield to become part of a 40-minute twenty-a-side pick-up game with Best on the side and Law watching the other; for which his dad paid \$22 and was told it would cost him an extra \$10 to have his photo taken with the stars.

3. Or the 30-odd young hopefuls who turned up at St Marys only for no George Best to appear.

4. Or the adults who turned up at Penrith Leagues, to pay for dinner with George Best, but ate on their own.

5. Or the people at Gosford who paid \$30 to listen to George Best, but who walked out without finishing their dinner because of the (alleged) foul language used by Mr Best.

I can go on to at least another twenty phone calls, but if Mr Best got paid at all he did well.

Also he might look up the definition of professional. A professional (Doctor, Lawyer, and Footballer) does his best and represents his profession to the "BEST" of his ability whether he is paid or not.

I would think it appropriate for the two sponsors of this NSW tour, the sporting promotion company and the well-known brand of sporting equipment to refund a huge proportion of the receipts, especially to the kids, who I believe were lured under false pretences.

I would also suggest that if Mr Best ever returns, he will play to empty houses as all states will have been advised of the NSW situation.

[Readers also please refer to the article entitled "George's likely farewell appearance" in last week's (Feb 28) ASW on Page 11]

— DAVID LEE,
NSW DIRECTOR
OF COACHING

EDITOR

It is up to the Australian Soccer Federation to keep right on the trail to obtain suitable touring teams to cover the NSL off season.

More particularly it should have outstanding visitors from the end of the NSL season in May on until June 8, when the World Cup begins.

A visit from leading Chilean team, Colo Colo, is on the cards, with well known international air carriers Aerolineas Argentinas keen to finalise arrangements.

This tour will help to cement Australia's growing connection with the important South American sector of world soccer, as well as aiding the growth of the new generation Socceroos.

The loss of the proposed tour by Wales left the ASF in a hole.

No doubt the non-appearance of great Welsh goalkeeper Neville Southall would have been a pity.

But the Welsh's inability to give guarantees particularly over the appearance of Ian Rush and Mark Hughes killed the marketability of the tour, no matter what the quality of the rest of the squad.

There would have been a poor public impact and an outcry from the media.

We have in the past referred to the apparent inability to bring teams like Liverpool to Australia, and the question must be asked as to whether the ASF has had discussions with Newcastle and Sydney based former Liverpool superstar Craig Johnston on the possibility.

Despite the difficulties imposed by the dominance of the World Cup over the widespread international scene midyear, there must be some room to secure outstanding visitors.

The Socceroos do not just require opponents at club level.

It is vital for their progress that quality national opposition is obtained.

In addition, the Australian public must be brought opposition which involves a great shout for the national flag and team.

It is not asking too much to have the ASF settling for national team opponents, regardless of the Colo Colo visitors.

The point follows that the Australian Federation must find the means and the promoter who can fully market the matches to the Australian soccer public.

Meanwhile, it seems that traditional games against New Zealand are temporarily on ice.

Australia is sponsored by the QUIT anti-smoking and anti-drug organisation, whilst the Kiwis have connections with tobacco giants, Rothmans.

But that puts all the more pressure on the ASF to secure big time friendly internationals.

Illawarra coaches are on their way

BY KEITH GILMOUR

WELL respected coach Chris James is getting the Illawarra Soccer Coaches' Association on the road with the first meeting of the year.

It will be held next Monday, March 12, at Woonona High School, Nicholson Lane, Woonona from 6.30pm.

Appointed as Illawarra Regional Director of Coaching late last year, James now combines his post with part time school teaching.

The guest coach for the session will be Eddie Thomson, the newly appointed National Director of Coaching, and former

assistant national, Sydney Olympic and Sydney City coach.

The sequence of operation for the night will be:

- 6.30-7.15pm Practical coaching session.
- 7.15-8pm Questions and answers.
- 8pm-9pm General business, future events and newsletter etc, followed by refreshments.

Newcomers are very welcome, and the yearly membership fee of the Association is a modest \$5.

The Illawarra has produced more than its quota of outstanding coaches, and no doubt will produce more.

Contact with Chris James can be made by telephone on 02 527 1512 (H) and 02 533 1293 (B).

Inter-city coaching puzzle

BY GREG RUSSELL

THE efforts of keen performers in the Queensland Soccer Federation's XXXX pre-season tournament could be in vain following the delay in an announcement of the Brisbane and Ipswich coaches.

The tournament has traditionally been the selection trials for the representative teams for the intercity contest, but with more than half the round one games completed, the QSF is still to announce its intercity coaches.

The situation is totally baffling. Mal Bland, the Brisbane coach for the past four years, is now the Brisbane director of coaching and his appointment as Brisbane rep coach was expected by most to be automatic.

Last year's Ipswich coach Brian Styles, who engineered the shock defeat of Brisbane at Ebbw Vale, also seemed a logical re-appointment considering his extensive Ipswich involvement.

It is a further bonus that this season he is tied to neither of the big Ipswich clubs, St Helen's or Coalstars, which would enable him to make his selections without any accusations of bias from the fierce parochial supporters from the rival clubs.

In the past, the intercity coaching appointments have been made by invitation after discussions with state



NSW and Queensland are scheduled to play two State of Origin matches later this year. Here John Kosmina (NSW) clashes with Queensland's Alan Hunter in a NSW v Queensland clash a few years ago.

coach Bruce Stowell, who uses the intercity series among his selection trials for the annual interstate clash with New South Wales.

But this year, the QSF management committee took a different course.

The committee, which is fast gaining a reputation for delaying decisions, first indicated it would call for applications for the Brisbane

job then in its last minutes indicated it would seek nominations from the Queensland Soccer Coaches' Association for the two coaching positions.

The wash-up of the whole procedure is that matches are being played without anyone looking beyond their own particular interest in the games.

Bland, who by this stage of the tournament in past years has had a wad of notes on potential intercity selections, is still very much in the dark.

Letter of the Week

In the front page article (ASW February 14) compiled by Mr Greg Blake, he mentions the ideas of QNSL chairman Sam Papasavas, about the direction in which the game of soccer is heading.

Down in Melbourne, Alan Davidson has initiated some of these ideas in print by placing them in his column in a Melbourne newspaper.

Two of the ideas mentioned were the three points per win system as used in England, as opposed to our current two points per win and a penalty shoot-out to be incorporated for drawn games.

The first idea in question has many points both for and against. It was supposed to act as an incentive for teams to promote a much healthier competition.

Two reasons which came to mind are, firstly the opportunity for teams to move rapidly within the league points standing, thereby highlighting a supporter's anxiety by watching his team one week be near the top after a win.

The next week, because of a loss, they suddenly find themselves near the bottom.

Secondly it was to help improve the competitiveness of the league teams within each division, a case in point being the current 1989-90 English soccer season.

I would be inclined to have the present two points per win remain with the one exception, that being the awarding of a third point for teams that score three or more goals in a game, this adding to the spectator value.

As regards to the second idea, any away team that goes and garnishes a point from the home team wouldn't appreciate having that precious point put to the test of a penalty shoot-out, which should only be contested in drawn cup matches.

I am firmly of the opinion that a second referee would not only reduce the tension placed on him for both fitness and accuracy of refereeing decisions, but would also improve the game by reducing the so called "line line" decisions which occur when the referee is a reasonable distance away from the action.

In parting, I would like to see the report conducted by Dr Bradley published to allow comment by interested parties.

Richard Smith
7 Prairie Vale Rd,
Bossley Park NSW
2176

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Acacia Ridge coach fuming

ACACIA Ridge coach Eric Thompson is fuming after the QSF's pre-season draw left his team shattered after just one week of its return to the XXXX League.

The Division Two premiers were given no chance of easing into their return season in the top division when they were scheduled two matches in three days under the QSF's new condensed pre-season tournament schedule.

Adding to the Ridge's woes, the club accepted to play in a two-week mini-tournament at Brisbane City which further crammed their opening week to the season.

The Ridge finished the week with five key players injured.

Captain Norm Bell has a serious ankle problem, star striker David Richardson has an injured toe, niggly midfielder David Crane has knee problems, tough defender Gavin Stutz has strained his groin while midfield playmaker Cameron Bell has a bruised shoulder.

"The scheduling was a joke," Thompson said. "No other club has asked to do the pre-season tournament program we were given. I can't understand why it wasn't changed before the draw was released."

"It's hard enough getting part-time players through two games a week, let alone two games in three days."

He believes the two matches, in which his side lost narrowly to Easts then were thrashed 7-0 by a classy looking Brisbane City, knocked the confidence out of his side.

"It's been a baptism of fire back into the XXXX League, but one I hope will work in our favor in the long run," he said.

"We have no illusions now about how tough it will be and I can guarantee City will not find us as weary next time."

The Ridge, who battled for four years to regain their top league status, are determined to ensure a long term tenure this time and have rebuilt the club since snaring Thompson from Mount Gravatt three years ago.

Apart from on-ground improvements, which include a new grandstand, members facilities, car park and press box, the club also has implemented a new player payment structure.

"It revolves around incentives to win and is geared totally along lines the club can afford," Thompson said.

"The Ridge will not fall into the trap that has seen clubs get into severe financial difficulties because of over committing themselves."

The policy includes no sign-on fees and no payments to players on amateur forms but no rewards should the club have a successful season.

The system has seen some players give the Ridge a wide berth this season, but Thompson is unworried.

"That's great, those type of players are the ones we don't want," he said.

Thompson has no doubts his squad still needs strengthening and is willing to talk to any player interested in joining the club — providing they have the right attitude.

"We are offering players a good club with sound management and a definite policy for the future," Thompson said.

"We aren't interested in fly-by-nighters."

— GREG RUSSELL

THE WA SCENE

BY RICHARD KREIDER

NORTH Perth Croatia goalkeeper Dave Roxby could be on the move again.

The former East Fremantle Tricolore and Spearwood Dulmatina player has been approached by Floreat Athena.

Discussions are running smoothly, and he may be turning out for the Greek-backed club during the Pepsi Night series.

Athena midfielder Norrie Sutton is following in Robbie Dunn's footsteps and will play in Hong Kong.

The 1982 Rothmans Medal winner will commute from Perth for the next six weeks to line-up with Eastern AA for whom he was successful 10 years ago.

He will join Ritchie Paskins, who played in Perth during the 1985 season.

Paskins, coincidentally, assisted Inglewood Kiev in handing out one of the biggest defeats on the Floreat club by scoring a hat-trick in a 7-2 drubbing.

Perth will receive a taste of Welsh football in May when former

captain Paul Price arrives for a short term with super league club Bayswater Inter.

Price, 35, 1982 FA Cup medal winner with Tottenham Hotspurs, cannot play any earlier because his current team is close to clinching a Vauxhall League title.

When news of his intended three-month holiday leaked out, Inter coach Guetano Castiello wasted no time in extending an invitation to the skilful defender.

He knew Price from their Luton Town days where they both signed on the same day in 1971.

Price made 207 appearances with Luton Town between 1972-80 followed by 39 with Tottenham (1981-83).

He then turned out for Minnesota in the United States before returning to the UK to play for Swansea (61 appearances in 1984/85).

His next club was Peterborough United during the 1986/87 seasons with 86 appearances.

His Welsh record includes one under 21 and 25 full international cups.

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**ALAN CLARK
REVIEWS**
The Soccer Scene
in . . .

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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PROMOTING A STATE OF HEALTH

AZZURRI skipper Steve Hutchins will be out of action for a month.

He has damaged knee ligaments.

Poor Polonia midfielder PJ Sanderson, though, is worse off. He is sidelined for the season with the recurrence of a shin problem.

SALISBURY United has missed out on a bold bid to bring Irish international Sammy McIlroy to SA.

The former Manchester United midfielder had had talks with the club but cancelled SA plans when he signed as player-coach of Preston North End.

ADELAIDE grants Hellas and City will be allowed to field only three QNSL players in the SA State League this season.

That has been confirmed by SA Soccer Federation chief, Mike Wells.

"Any three players from the last NSL match card can be used," he said.

Should Hellas be relegated from the QNSL but then win the Foundation State League it will be eligible to contest the NSL playoffs later this year.

TOP SA officials are looking at a blueprint to boost crowds for the next Ampol Cup competition.

Ampol has agreed to back the event again — its 32nd consecutive year of sponsorship, making it one of the longest-running affiliations in soccer.

Croatia midfielder Mladen Putanec clinched a \$500 award as Player of the Series this year.

Eddie Briscoe, of Birkalla Eagles was top goalscorer.

ALEX Russell, brother of former Adelaide City, South Melbourne and Soccerro favourite Bobby, has opened a soccer pub in SA.

The Penalty Spot looks sure to be a big attraction at the re-

vamped Brompton Park Hotel which is only a decent corner kick from Hindmarsh Stadium.

Modbury hopes the worst of its year is over as the season gets under way.

"We have had a horror stretch with injuries," said clubman Terry Thorp. The injury room at Golden Grove, though, is clearing.

Martin Cockerill and Neil Edwards are fit and Bryan Kent did play on Saturday against Port.

There is doubt over goalkeeper Brian Gale, who had exploratory surgery on a knee. Bryan Edwards should return to training tonight after knee surgery but Carl Whitehead (ankle) will be out for another fortnight.

A prominent coach in SA has called for a review of procedures over suspensions and cautions.

"It is an anomaly that there is no right of appeal over a sending off or a caution for that matter," he said.

"It probably is very doubtful if such a scheme of things would stand up in court. Perhaps the powers that be should look at it."

Salisbury United is keen to attract striker Tony Gasparetto back from QNSL club Hellas.

Gasparetto has been hampered by a groin complaint and feels he cannot achieve full recovery with the intensity of QNSL training.

The Berries also have attracted striker Bryn Acton back from amateur soccer. He was a former regular scorer with the club.

PROMOTED Beograd has signed former Adelaide City man Mike Donnelly from Campbelltown. Striker Vojislav Gluscevic also has arrived at the club from Port Adelaide.

LION has fixed up Port utility player Zelko Bilandzic but has lost key men Bernie Bridges and Charlie Stewart to promoted Cumberland.



ALBY KIDD — winner of last season's prestigious SA players' prize.

Players have say in prize

Players will have a big say in voting for this year's Foundation SA Player of the Year.

In a new scheme, announced at a spectacular launch of season 1990, captains will allocate two points for whom they feel is the best player in the opposition for each League match.

They also will give one vote to second best.

Referees still will allot 3-2-1 preference votes for the best players on the ground in each match.

"We feel this is a match better system," said SA Soccer Federation general manager Mike Wells.

"A total of 12 votes will be cast for each League game and it will be good with players having a say."

"The scheme should pacify everyone and add stimulus at the end of the year."

Players sent off or suspended still will be eligible to win the prestige award, earned off last year by Hellas skipper Alby Kidd.

"With 12 votes being allotted in each game there will be a wide range of voting and players on the leader board at the end of the year should have a large tally against their name," said Wells.

Voting started on Saturday with the kick-off of the Foundation SA season which was given a send-off to remember with the glamour launch at Hindmarsh.

Seppelt Wines Coach of the month and Coach of the Year award also commence this weekend.

"Each coach in the First and Second Division will cast 3-2-1 preference votes at the end of the month for the coaches they feel have performed best that month," said Wells.

First and Second Division coaches will have a chance to assess each other with sides from those leagues meeting each other in the West End Premier Cup which starts on Wednesday.

Winners of the Coach of the Month award receives magnanimous of Seppelt Great Western Imperial Reserve and Seppelt Brut champagne.

The winner over the year collects a jero-boom of Seppelt Great Western champagne and an inscribed a champagne bucket.

Clubs also will play for a special Home Fresh Bakeries Fair Play Award.

AMPOL Cup winner Croatia's League start has been thrown into confusion — because of cycling.

The club's Hanson Reserve is a cycling venue and is required on Saturdays for Croatia's first two home matches.

Croatia will use two other SA grounds for the fixtures.

The club won the Ampol Cup at a cost. Teenage defender Douglas Paterson broke his leg in the final and skipper Paul Blute suffered a serious knee injury.

— ALAN CLARK



Chaos in Victoria

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 11

along with six First Division clubs to form a secondary State League.

In handing down his decision last Tuesday the judge said that a decision by a majority of not less than 75 percent of VSF member clubs was necessary to change the Federation's promotion and relegation rules and that any change could not take effect until the next annual general meeting.

The VSF, probably wisely, chose not to appeal against the decision, nor did it decide to pursue FIFA in the hope of invoking the FIFA ruling that clubs taking action against their parents bodies be expelled from competition.

It was, said VSF chairman Vito Cilauri, against the best interests of the game to attempt to retaliate against the five clubs.

By last Tuesday night the VSF, with its 'Super League' dream in tatters, decided on going ahead with a cumbersome 18-team State League, in accordance with the Supreme Court ruling.

In making up the draw the VSF had to take into account both the end of season com-

petitions and the NSL play-offs.

To accommodate the NSL play offs the Victorian season must be completed by August or September or face the prospect of ruling out Victorian clubs making a promotion bid this season.

The new 18-team league draw has stipulated the utilisation of every public holiday and, over a period of five weeks during the season, will play two rounds per weekend with nine games on both Saturday and Sunday.

The proposed 'Super League' clubs, understandably furious with the Supreme Court decision, met last Wednesday night and drafted a proposal suggesting the 12 clubs become a separate NSL "Second Division".

Eleven of the 12 Super League clubs (Caulfield City representatives did not attend) were to present the proposal to the State League Management Committee on Monday night.

A spokesman for the Super League clubs said the Supreme Court decision was a "disaster for the clubs and a disaster for soccer."

"We will only go ahead with the 18-team league if we absolutely have to," he said.

If the proposal is passed by the State League Management Committee it will then go to the VSF Board of Management (due to meet last night — Tuesday) and subsequently to the Australian Soccer Federation.

NSL chairman Sam Papasavas has recently indicated that there is little likelihood of the plans to form an NSL Second Division being accepted.

Northern Cup Nominations

THE Northern NSW Branch Amateur Cup for senior teams is to be held on the Central Coast.

Nominations for this event will close, with registrar Margaret Ford, on May 12 (043) 322 245.

The branch is investigating formation of a soccer scholarship for talented players, the establishment of a full time office assistant and the possible introduction of a promotion and development fund.

Coming events are: April 1: Anzac Cup, Lismore. April 8: Beltingen Carnival. April 17: Level two coaching course, Clarence River. April 29: U10 representative carnival, Grafton.

If your association would like to use this column for news, phone 066 42717 or fax 066 420 733 the information to Bob Dickey, Grafton.

One suggestion apparently not considered by the VSF in doing its new draw — a suggestion which would solve the problems of fixture congestion and still adhere to the court ruling of an 18-team competition — would be two equal divisions of nine clubs each with the winner of each division to play-off for the right to contest the NSL play-offs.

That proposal is not likely to be considered in the last-minute rush to get the Victorian season under way this week, a full three weeks behind the original scheduled start.

But a spokesman for one of the dissenting clubs told ASW that a plan for two equal divisions would be a satisfactory conclusion to the whole affair.

"That is all we wanted in the first place," he said.

All it takes is the consent of the clubs and we'll see what happens at the (State League Management Committee) meeting."

At the end of the day, and regardless of whether or not the State League gets under way this weekend, the entire messy business has cost the game dearly.

The chaos, stupidity, public slinging matches has destroyed the credibility of the game once again.

It's ridiculous and self-destructive.

But then again that's nothing new to the game here.

But the way, if and when we know for certain who is playing who and when, be sure that ASW will try and let you know.

It could only happen in Victoria that two days prior to the start of the competition we still don't even know which teams will meet in the opening round.

NB: Last week's Supreme Court decision has also meant changes to the Victorian lower leagues. The proposed reorganisation of the competitions will not go ahead in light of the court ruling.

SBS TV and ABC TV, both arms of the Federal Government, have at last got the heads together to arrange for a sensible World Cup ITALIA '90 package. SBS will cover the series in its viewing area, and the ABC is to telecast matches throughout the balance of Australia. In addition the ABC will broadcast summary packages to its agreed area. The arrangement will win wide acceptance throughout country areas where soccer fans have been wondering whether they would be able to view the big event at all.

LEGACY still needs your help

Please send donations
to your nearest Legacy office.

Easy for Altona Gate in Youth League South

BY ROY HAY



The leading goalscorer in the National Youth League (Southern Division), Saso Becvinovski of Melbourne City JUST is closely marked by Andrew Koutsapis of South Melbourne Hellas White at Middle Park on 17 February 1990 — PHOTO ROY HAY

ALTONA Gate easily accounted for Clifton Hill 3-0 in a National Youth League (Southern Division) match switched to Saturday.

Steve Trajkovski praised Zlate Markovski who ran the midfield and scored one of Altona Gate's goals, but he was less happy about his defence even though they kept a clean sheet. Ivo Kutlesovski continued his goal-a-game run, and Goran Lozanovski completed the tally.

On Sunday, Geelong City went down 3-0 against unbeaten league leader, Melbourne Croatia at Bell Park Sports Club.

City had a great chance to take the lead in three minutes when Craig Plummer beat keeper Joe Rados only for his header to come back off the inside of the post. Tony Bozinovski cut through the static Croatia defence and laid the ball inside and Geelong City had the ball in the net, only to pulled back for offside.

Croatia got a free kick just outside the box and Hus Skenderovic blasted it at and through the City defensive wall to give the visitors the lead after 25 minutes.

In an opening flurry in the second half, Ross Hay of City had a shot charged down, and Craig Plummer's cross-shot went right across the face of goal. After seven minutes, with City on the attack, a long clearance out of defence gave Mark Silic a chance to turn his marker and score a second goal for Croatia.

In the last minute Silic was allowed to run on as the City defence stopped and he scored Croatia's third goal.

South Melbourne Hellas White ran up seven goals without reply against South Melbourne Hellas Blue at Middle Park. Con Rados opened the scoring for White with a shot which went in off the underside of the bar, and when Con Boutisianis did likewise some of the steam went out of the Blue team.

Vince de la Plaza was very closely marked and Con Boutisianis went on to score a total of four goals, with Peter Tiktakis and Paul Fernandez adding the others.

Melbourne City JUST crushed Sunshine George Cross 6-0 at Sunshine Football Ground, both teams having to use their younger players and the JUST lads delivered.

John Panazidis put JUST on its way in 40 minutes and Dragi Surbevski added a second early in the second half. After that the roof fell in on Georgie and further goals were scored by Zoran Ovuka with two, Tony Markovski and Richard Cucanic.

Heidelberg United went down at home 2-4 to Preston Makedonia. Elvis Dimitrievski scored with a penalty for Preston and Vitale Ferrante, Michel Angelovski and Nick Georgopoulos completed Preston's tally, while Stavros Mangos and George Mihailidis replied for Heidelberg.

In a scrappy game at East Richmond, Caulfield City took its chances better and ran out 3-1 winner. Mark Aretis opened for Caulfield and Bill Sakkas got the second after a goal-keeping error.

Dimitrios Daglaras replied with a penalty for East Richmond, but as it pressed forward looking for an equaliser, John Logogianis made the points secure for Caulfield.

North Geelong had a bye.

Results

Altona Gate 3 (Kutlesovski, Markovski, Lozanovski) Clifton Hill 0, Geelong City 0 Melbourne Croatia 3 (Skenderovic, Silic 2), East Richmond 1 (Daglaras) Caulfield City 3 (Aretis, Sakkas, Logogianis), South Melbourne Hellas White 7 (Boutsianis 4, Rodas, Tiktakis, Fernandez) South Melbourne Hellas Blue 0, Heidelberg United 2 (Mangos, Mihailidis) Preston Makedonia 4 (Dimitrievski, Ferrante, Angelovski, Georgopoulos), Sunshine George Cross 0 Melbourne City JUST 6 (Panazidis, Ovuka 2, Cucanic, Markovski, Surbevski)

Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melb Croatia	15	14	1	0	56	12	28
Altona Gate	17	13	2	2	46	14	28
SMHW	18	11	3	4	35	17	25
Melb City JUST	18	8	5	5	50	33	21
Sunshine GC	17	8	4	5	37	33	20
Preston	18	7	3	8	31	25	17
Geelong City	17	8	1	8	30	40	17
Heidelberg	17	4	5	8	19	32	13
North Geelong	15	6	0	9	30	51	12
East Richmond	17	4	2	11	28	46	10
Caulfield City	16	2	4	10	17	33	8
SMHB	16	3	2	11	20	40	8
Clifton Hill	13	2	0	11	12	46	4

Top Scorers

Saso Becvinovski Melbourne City JUST 21, Con Boutisianis South Melbourne Hellas White 16, Joe Bacak Melbourne Croatia 15, Adrian Cervinski North Geelong 11, Vince Manuel de la Plaza South Melbourne Hellas Blue 10, Mark Silic Melbourne Croatia 9, Trajce Latomanski Altona Gate 7, Kevin Muscat Sunshine George Cross 7

THE AIS stayed at the top of the National Youth League North competition when they defeated Sydney Olympic 4-2 at Bruce Stadium in very wet conditions.

AIS opened the scoring in the 22nd minute when Trajanovski scored with a great header from a Shane Block cross.

Olympic equalised five minutes later when Araujo was brought down in the box with Steve Refenes having no trouble with the spot kick.

Almost straight after half-time the AIS again took the lead when Sevin, standing on the edge of the box, crashed home a volley which gave the goalkeeper absolutely no chance.

Olympic levelled once again when Talia brought down Refenes in the area and he converted for his second goal.

The AIS took the lead once more when Corica made a run from half-way, he spotted the keeper off his line and his deft chip gave the defence no chance to clear.

AIS sealed their win when Corica passed to Trajanovski who slotted home his second goal of the afternoon.

Best for AIS were Jones, Trajanovski and Corica, while for Olympic Cordozo, Badron and Georgopoulos were the best.

BY DAVID COOPER

AIS Talia, Jones, Coliba, Sevin, Sorras, Granney, Corica, Trajanovski, Block (Wells), Hillier, Bizimovski (Maloney), OLYMPIC M Refenes, Palediogos, Serrators, Badron, Georgopoulos, Sharpley, Alexandriakis (T. Triantafyllou), Pontidas, Araujo, Cordozo, S. Refenes.

MELITA: Preston, Souris, Hall, Cumli (Cachia), Farrugia, Batista, Novormet, Aravena (Perinich), Parison, Cerro, Tapia.

BLACKTOWN Mautona (Crawley), Murphy, Langan, Beggie, Comerford (Tyman), Shipley, Lees, Bourke, Gomez (McArdle), Connolly, Jee.

WOLLONGONG CITY 1 MARCONI 3

Both teams picked up a point when they clashed at Melita Stadium on Sunday.

The game was played in extreme heat and it obviously had an effect on the way the game was played as neither team dominated the play.

The first half was fairly even with most of play centering on the middle of the park and both goalkeepers had little to do.

The first chance of the game came via Melita's Novormet when he received a cross from Parison, he controlled and with his back to the goal he chipped over his head to see the ball bounce off the crossbar with the goalkeeper well beaten.

Straight after half-time, Paul Bourke produced a tremendous save from Melita goalkeeper Scott Preston when he rocketed a shot from about 18 metres.

In the 52nd minute Blacktown took the lead when Connolly received a super-ball from Lees and he blasted the ball into the net.

Melita equalised in the 75th minute when a had defensive back-pass by Blacktown enabled Gus Cerro to come in steal the ball and slot home the easiest of the goals.

MELITA: Preston, Souris, Hall, Cumli (Cachia), Farrugia, Batista, Novormet, Aravena (Perinich), Parison, Cerro, Tapia.

BLACKTOWN Mautona (Crawley), Murphy, Langan, Beggie, Comerford (Tyman), Shipley, Lees, Bourke, Gomez (McArdle), Connolly, Jee.

Marconi consolidated their position in the top four when they defeated Wollongong 3-1 at Brandon Park on Sunday.

Marconi hit the front in the 11th minute when S. Surtan slotted home from the penalty spot.

Further goals to Lopez in the 47th minute and to A. Surjan in the 67th minute seemed to indicate Marconi were going to win with ease.

However, Dimoski struck a goal back in the 68th minute and try as they may Wollongong could not find the back of the net in their search for the equaliser.

WOLLONGONG: Pupovac, Allport, Baggotti, D'Amico, Piacentini, Kotamanidis, Krishna, Elmir, Peikovic, Lardis, Vasquez (Dimoski).

MARCONI: Schwarzer, Colucci, S. Surjan, Mammone, Charwood, A. Surtan, Suzer, Clune, Lopez, Villetta (Messina), Colaguirri.

Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	11	8	4	1	23	9	16
Marconi	12	5	4	3	17	10	14
Apia	11	5	4	2	11	9	14
St George	11	5	2	4	5	15	2
Blacktown	12	4	3	5	16	12	11
Olympic	11	5	1	5	16	14	11
Melita	11	4	2	5	12	20	10
Wollongong	12	3	2	7	12	20	8
Croatia	11	2	2	7	12	25	1

Beefs

As a follower of Australian Soccer I was appalled at the situation that Frank Arok found himself in.

There is very little to cheer about in Australian soccer.

The NSL is a dismal failure. It's a group of ethnic clubs run by an ethnic committee who believe do not care two hoots about the Australian public.

At a St George v Sydney Olympic game recently a father was sitting with his little boy (about 5 yrs old).

The boy asked his father "What country was St George?" and his father said "Hungary".

What a joke. The boy who is Australian born of Greek parents is being told at an Australian soccer game that the game he is watching is from another country.

If there is any increase in crowds at our games there are two reasons "Match of the Day on ABC, and the NSL coaches and teams, but not the clubs."

(name and address supplied)

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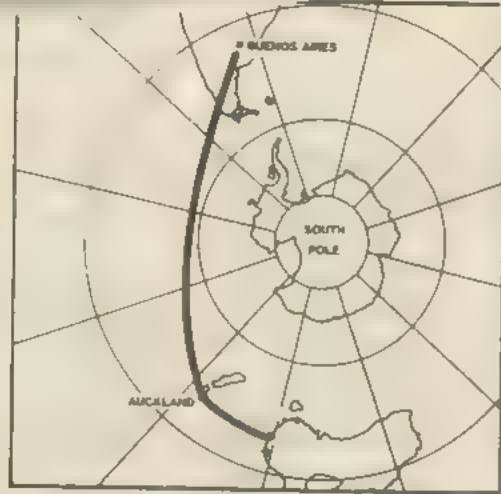
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AS ARGENTINAS



AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS

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Second Division starts off in searing heat

BY PAUL GOODWIN

CLOSE games and heat wave conditions were the order of the day as the new NSW Second Division season got under way and the second halves of matches proved particularly rewarding for several sides.

Cawarra Park was to have been the venue for Auburn-Yugal's clash with Dulwich Hill on Saturday, but Rosebery and Gladesville eventually played out a 1-1 draw at the Rooty Hill ground instead, when Yugal made other arrangements for Sunday.

Chris Butt put Gladesville ahead from the spot in the 40th minute after a push by Mark Hanham, but the visitors failed to press home the advantage and allowed Rosebery to draw level through Ercan Osman in the 75th minute. Osman controlled a cross from Ricky Somboli inside the box and finished nicely to spoil David Griffiths' good work in goal up to that point.

Missing leading scorer Paul Harriot and stopper Gary Higginson, Rosebery were happy with the point, while Gladesville could have wrapped things up earlier with a more positive approach.

Auburn-Yugal found their way onto Lidcombe Oval after weeks of negotiations with the Auburn Council and the Mayor of Auburn, George Dunn, kicked off at the immaculately

presented ground which could easily provide the best surface in the division.

Without seven of last year's team and out-gunned in midfield, the Auburn side did well to share the points with a talented Dulwich Hill, for whom new signing Nelio Borges opened the scoring in the 17th minute. Paul Petteon and Vlado Zoric both hit the post for the home side, before Vaso Despotovic put away a Belezic shot that the Madeira keeper could not hold in the 75th minute.

Southern Districts finished best at Ernie Smith Reserve to pull back a two-goal deficit, the equaliser coming in the 89th minute from Leo Ujloa.

The same man, a former Uruguay Penrith player, had opened the District's account in the 75th minute at Fairfield City had taken a 60th minute lead from the spot thanks to Mortinell when Younan brought down Gallsaay.

Nine minutes later Langan made a solo run from his own area to put his side two up, but the 635 strong crowd was not impressed with the rugged nature of the game, which yielded eight yellow cards.

It could be a long hard year for Granville-Chile if rumours of a move by Andy Ferris are true. Ferris was the only real threat to Petersham-Lusitanos at Garside Park, claiming a consolation goal for the home side, which fell behind in the 31st

minute to a David Zannola goal following a Pat Sullivan cross.

Sullivan himself grabbed the second in the 57th, the big defender heading home a corner from the left at close range.

Campbelltown and Central Coast battled away without result before the break at Bensley Road, but after Ray Carney had netted from the penalty spot in the 52nd minute the flood gates opened.

Max Dethlicibus, signed from Federation League side Abruzzi, claimed the second three minutes later and Gary Hatton got the third after Coast had pulled one back in the 64th thanks to Derek Caisley.

Penalty ace Carney did the honours again in the 80th minute after a foul on Hatton and the visitors reduced the arrears when substitute Andrew Ollier netted in the 82nd.

Former Concordia captain-coach, 26-year-old Sep Disch, made it five three minutes from time in a lively second half which showed that either attack could be a force this season.

Manly-Warringah and Orange figured in a highly entertaining game at Waratah Park on Saturday night, with the Seaside's Mark Butler picking up where he left off last year, scoring two goals.

The first, a neat header in the 12th minute from a Tom Gavin cross and the winner in the dying stages from a lob over goalkeeper Glenn Hooper's head after a throughball by John Doyle.

Orange had drawn level in unusual circumstances in the 36th minute when Darren Sinclair picked up a pass from Ron Davidson and scored with a long-range effort along with the ground.

Davidson won possession from a dropped ball after referee Eric Cohen had been floored by a hefty clearance and the game had been stopped for several minutes.



Canberra Croatia midfielder Stan Dukic shows off the club's 1990 playing strip which bears the logo of its new major sponsor, the Canberra Building Society. The deal is reported to be worth around \$30,000 to the NSW State League club in the first year of a three-year association.

UMBRO YOUTH LEAGUE

ROUND 1 SUNDAY MARCH 4 DIVISION 1

		U13	U14	U15	U17
St George	v	Sith Districts	def 5-0	3-1	0-4
Syd Olympic	v	Can/M/Ville	3-1	4-1	5-0
Apia	v	Macarthur	0-5	1-1	1-1
Syd Croatia	v	Ilwarrara	2-1	0-2	4-1
Nepean	v	Melita	2-2	0-0	1-1
Blackdown City	v	Bankstown	def 1-0	1-0	0-0
Sutherland	v	Marconi	4-4	0-5	2-2

SUNDAY MARCH 4 DIVISION 2

		2-5	0-2	1-4	1-6
Kuring-gai	v	Sith Branch	3-0	5-4	3-0
Canterbury	v	Fairfield City	7-1	0-1	2-1
Granville	v	Warringah	2-1	1-0	1-2
Gladesville	v	Sith & Eastern	4-2	1-1	3-0
Manly Warringah	v	Polonia	0-3	0-1	1-1
Avala	v	Central Coast	3-1	2-1	2-5
Blackdown	v	Rockdale			

Results

- Campbelltown Vik v Dulwich Hill (1-0)
- Central Coast v Waverley (1-0)
- Granville Chile v Rosebery (1-0)
- Southern Districts 2 (U10a 2) Fairfield City 2 (Mortinell (pen) Langan)
- Rosebery Portugal 1 (Ercan Osman) Gladesville-Hornsby 1 (Butt pen.)
- Petersham Lusitanos 2 (Zannola Sullivan) Granville-Chile 1 (Ferris)
- Orange Waratah 1 (Darren Sinclair) Manly Warringah 2 (Butler 2)
- Waverley 1 (Tracey) Mount Druitt Town 0

REGIONAL NEWS

ASW is always keen to publish some stories and pictures from main regional centres throughout Australia.

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Address material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

NSW SECOND DIVISION

ROUND 2 10TH/11TH MARCH

SATURDAY

Campbelltown Vik v Dulwich Hill
Central Coast v Waverley
Granville Chile v Rosebery

SUNDAY

Fairfield City v SSC Yugal
Southern District v Gladesville H'by
Mt Druitt Town v Orange Waratahs
Manly Warringah v Petersham

Note: * 4pm & 5pm kick off
** 5pm & 8pm kick off
*** 5pm & 7pm kick off
Other games 1pm & 3pm

Bensley Rd***
Plum Park**
Garside Park•

Knight Park
Ernie Smith
Popondetta Pk
Cromer Park

NSW Club Yugal has had to list its fine goalkeeper Rosarifo Pinto for transfer after six years with the club. Secretary Dragan can be contacted on 810 6796 (H).

Rosebery ready for Second Division

THE Rosebery Soccer Club thoroughly earned its ticket into the Second Division for 1990 by breezing through the 1989 Third Division.

In only their first season in NSW State League Three the Rosebery boys stormed to the minor premiership with two games left to play, losing just one match along the way.

Not content with that, they won the Grand Final 3-1 against the strong Central Coast side, crowning a great season in which the Rosebery Under 19s also gained the minor premiership.

Rosebery are not a team of 'stars' or big names, relying instead on hard work, serious training, good organisation and excellent team spirit.

They began the season in superb style, beating the fancied Port Hacking side 2-0, then coming back from a 2-0 deficit to turn over Concordia 4-2.

A hard-fought 0-0 away draw with Central Coast showed again the determination in the club, as Rosebery played with only ten men for the last 35 minutes.

Then followed a great run of eleven straight wins, scoring 39 goals and conceding 9.

Player-coach Kelly Cross scored 11 of those goals but almost everyone chipped in; twelve players got their name on the scoresheet during the season, including goalkeeper George Psaroudis from the penalty spot.

Then came a bad run of injuries, including the extended absence of influential club captain Kevin Collins, and this spell saw the only defeat of the season, 3-2 away to an enthusiastic Mount Pritchard.

But the team rallied round and put some

that a 3-1 home win over University of NSW clinched the premiership two weeks before it ended.

Rosebery's defensive record was very good with keeper Psaroudis keeping 11 clean sheets in 22 games and on only three occasions did the side concede more than one goal.

Skipper Collins was helped in defence by Gary Higginson, Kenny Sorge, Pat Martin and Graham Schofield, with David Terry and Alan Stoddart giving able support when called up.

The regular midfield combination of Paul Harriot, Ricky Somboli and Mark Wilson worked extremely well and brought 19 goals too.

Up front Cross, Tony Heery (38 years old and still tormenting defenders!), Jimmy Keane and Brett Spice produced 30 goals and John Palapanis scored three in the five games he played.

Top scorer for the season was Paul Harriot with 15 goals, which included a terrific hat trick in the grand final.

Rosebery Portugal are looking forward to a challenging year in Division Two, satisfied that they deserve to be there on their own merit, but under no illusions that it will be easy.

They have retained the services of player-coach Kelly Cross and of most of their players, but the club is always receptive to new players who are prepared to train hard.

Rosebery pride themselves on their friendly club and excellent restaurant which will be moving to a larger site at St Peters later this year.

Visitors are always welcome before and after the game.

Canberra Croatia ready

BY GRAHAM COOKE

CANBERRA Croatia virtually completed its squad for the 1990 NSW Soccer League season when four players signed contracts.

Peter Mazis, Doug Marcina, Tony Lemezzina and Alan Reis have a put pen to paper.

Mazis and Marcina had been expected to sign, while Lemezzina, who played on loan from his old club Melbourne Croatia last season, had been awaiting formal notification of a free transfer from the Quil Nations Soccer League outfit.

The big coup was striker Alan Reis, a crucial cog in coach Tom Seimann's plan.

Reis was uncertain whether he would re-

sign but the breakthrough came after a marathon night of session with team manager Mike Skrzyngiel.

One player, last year's captain George Kulscar, is still unsigned.

The capable midfielder has agreed terms but will wait until he has details of a counter offer made by a Sydney club before committing himself.

Kulscar, who works at the ANU, will then have to balance the two deals in the light of any disruptions to his life that playing for a Sydney team will bring.

WOLLONGONG WIN 3-0

WOLLONGONG Macedonia was back at its brilliant best last Saturday afternoon as it steamrolled Sutherland Shire 3-0 at Seymour Shaw Park.

After its 2-2 draw with Sydney Macedonia in the first round, the Wollongong side was out to make amends.

Graeme Fletcher missed an easy one in the opening minutes, and then managed to beat Nigel Nofke in the 10th minute, only to see his shot rebound off the crossbar.

Even a penalty to Wollongong in the 17th minute was not enough, as Nofke denied John Cavanah.

Just when most believed that Wollongong's tale of woes would continue, Paul Kay and Adam Sandy combined to set up Fletcher, and the ex-St

George striker made no mistake right on half-time.

Two minutes into the second period, and it was Kay again. He strolled past three would-be tacklers, rounded the keeper, pushing his cross into the path of Tony Caban, who sidefooted into the net.

Sandy capped a fine game following another Kay run that sealed the Sharks' fate in the 82nd minute.

Darren Galway was amongst the best for Wollongong, being assigned to keep an eye on John Kosmina.

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Young Cavanah, Galway, Shaw, Cabassi, Kay, Sandy, Thornthwaite, Bourke, Fletcher, Caban, (Bradley), Dimov (De Marco).

SUTHERLAND SHIRE: Nofke, Biscaya, Setler, Ennor, Webber, J O'Shea, Langan, Murray, Kosmina, Brad, Rothwell, (Terry), Hristodoulou, (Tasker).

— ALEX VESIC

AIS a big plus for Australian soccer

FROM STEVE DARBY IN CANBERRA



PAUL TRIMBOLI, AIS product

THIS is the first time that I have replied to an article in the "Australian Soccer Weekly" as in essence I believe in free speech and the right for differing opinions to be aired in a public forum.

However, I have to reply to the Mike Johnson Australian Institute

of Sport coaching article published on February 28 as I believe there are too many incorrect statements made, based purely on anonymous conjecture.

Firstly I challenge the article on its structure in that one of the basic laws of journalism is that sources of information (described in the article as "some involved in the soccer

scene" or just "they") are checked for validity either with the opposite party in the argument, such as the staff at the AIS, or with an informed objective party.

If a check only out of courtesy had been made, it would have rectified the embarrassing incorrect statements of

1. That office hours are at the AIS are 9 to 5.
2. That the students are lucky to get 3 x 1.5 hours of soccer work per week.

3. That the AIS basketballers receive 35 hours per week tuition.

4. That selection methods are inept.

It is not my position to correct the above myths as I am sure Ron Smith will give replies based on fact as opposed to anonymous gossip.

However, I do feel that as an ASF staff coach I have the right to defend the most successful long-term development program that soccer has ever had.

Firstly the analysis of coaching to an hourly level is totally inappropriate as it is the quality of the coaching which is the vital ingredient to development.

As Mike Johnson has never viewed a session at the AIS (checked with the coaches) how can any valid criticism be made by him?

I certainly would not attempt to discuss the quality of Mike's coaching despite hearing what "they" say about it.

Secondly, perhaps the opinions of the most important parts of the AIS program (the players) should have been canvassed.

The quality of the graduates emerging from the scheme, particularly from isolated areas such as Tasmania (Longo, Reynolds, Clarkson), is perhaps the truest measure of the program's worth.

As a coach I would love to have the opportunity to coach the following team: Franken, Healey, Reynolds, Bernal, Hooker, Polak, Crino, de Marigny, Farina, Trimboli, Spink, with a few useful subs such as Wright, Brown, Longo, Edwards, and Hristodoulou.

Overall articles of this nature do no good to the game.

Next time when Mike is critical of the AIS he should check his facts at the source or, even better, visit the Institute and speak to the players and perhaps participate in the program for a week.

Maybe he can then write an article which can correctly inform the anonymous "they" that the AIS is a "big plus" for soccer.

Northern Amateurs ready for season

FROM BOB DICKEY

THE Northern Branch of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation covers 20,000 enthusiastic senior and junior soccer footballers, who play in the seven associations in the area.

Amongst the latest news from the district comes congratulations to the Singleton U16 team, who last year took out the NSW Champion of Champions trophy.

As if this wasn't a big enough buzz for the players, they were further honoured by their local council on Australia Day, as the Junior Sports team for 1989.

Another individual to be recognised for his soccer achievements was Marty Jagers, an U16 year old from the Clarence River Soccer Association.

He was named Junior Sports Person for 1989 at his shire's Australia Day celebration.

The Central Coast Association will host the special soccer Olympics at Kingcumber on July 21 and 22.

Helpers, supporters and enthusiasts wishing to lend a hand can do so by contacting the Central Coast Association secretary, Leone Best.

Coaches and managers for most representative teams have been interviewed and appointed for the 1990 and 1991 seasons. They are, for Northern Metropolitan:

U11: Graham Barrie and Stan Tworek. U12: Tony Keene and Mark Walton. U13: Gary Conway. (manager required) U14: Ken Johns and Col Edwards. U15: Ray Scholes and Bob Conley. U16/17: Brian Follett and Alex Adams.

The representative team convenor for the metropolitan area is Phyllis Avery from Cessnock.

The coaches and managers from the Northern country area are: U11: Colin Pound. (manager required) U12: both positions vacant. U13: Kevin Keene's (manager required) U14: Terry Wratten and Arthur Butcher. U15: Eric Wilson and Louisa Wilson. U16/17: Both positions vacant.

Interested coaches with level two qualifications can contact Max Norden on 049 304 365.

The representative teams convenor is Arthur Jessup of Beltingen.

Titles

At its last directors' meeting the Northern branch set down the venues for branch championships through to 1996.

This year's venues will be: U11: Lismore Districts. U12: Macquarie Association. U13: Macleay Valley. U14: Clarence River. U15: Hunter Districts. U16 and 17: Newcastle.

STAR WOMEN PLAYER PROFILES

JANINE MCPHEE

Name: Janine McPhee
Club: Coburg
Birthdate: 15 12 66
Preferred Position: Not goalkeeper
Occupation: Sports Administrator
Most Admired Players: Julie Doan and Glenn Hoddie
Most memorable match: Australian Airlines Cup v Qld 1986
Favourite Music: Anything
Favourite Food: Italian
Other interests: Indoor soccer
Qualifications: Level 1 coaching and administration
National championships: 7
International appearances: 5



CAROLYN MONK

Name: Carolyn Monk
Club: Coburg
Birthdate: 17 9 63
Preferred Position: Right defender
Occupation: Admin. Officer
Most Admired Players: Janine McPhee and Kenny Daughish
Biggest thrill in soccer: Winning 1989 Nationals
Favourite Music: Anything
Favourite Food: Italian
Other interests: Indoor soccer
National championships: 4
International appearances: 3

European Cup quarter-finals

BY LOU GAUTIER

THE European Cup competitions resume today (Wednesday) with the quarter-finals of the Champions' Cup-Winners' and UEFA Cups.

Bayern Munich v PSV Eindhoven is the big one in the Champions' Cup, with the West Germans favoured to win at the Munich Olympic Stadium against a side which has not been too impressive since the Dutch league resumed after the winter break.

Mechelen, who have been disappointing in the Belgian competition and who have almost certainly lost their chance of repeating as champions, will be fully tested by the in-form AC Milan.

Despite the loss of Ruud Gullit, the holders of the trophy are in rare form.

Marseille undertake the perilous trip to Sofia to meet CFKA

Now well adrift of Bordeaux in the French championship, Marseille need a draw or the narrowest of losses to keep their chances of a semi-final berth alive in the re-



turn match.

Benfica should be too strong for the USSR's Dnepr at their Luz Stadium in Lisbon, especially since the Soviets have not played a competitive match in more than four months.

In the Cup-Winners' Cup, Sampdoria

should be untroubled at home against the modest Swiss from Grasshoppers Zurich and Anderlecht, the favourites for the Cup, will be far too strong for Austria's Admira.

Dinamo Bucharest v Partizan Belgrade and Valladolid v Monaco are too close to call.

These ties will probably only be decided in the return legs.

The UEFA Cup boasts a much stronger field than the Cup-Winners' Cup, with no less than three West German clubs still in contention against two each from Belgium and Italy and France's Auxerre.

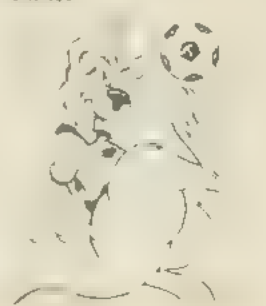
Hamburger SV v Juventus deserves star billing, with the Italians slightly favoured to take out the two-legged tie.

FC Koln and Fiorentina may record big enough wins in the first leg to make the return matches a formality.



while Werder Bremen, who knocked holders Napoli out earlier, may well win away to Liege.

All return legs will be played on March 21, with a couple of games played 24 hours earlier.





Amateurs, Juniors and Schools News

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AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY, PO BOX 406 BROADWAY 2007
Telephone (02) 660 2033 FAX (02) 692 0649



ST PATRICK'S DUNDAS: Back Row: l-r: Randal Longmire, Jason Jammer, Simon Walters, Steven Sarlow, Andrew Rosario, Christos Exharos, Adam Craig, Paul Bowe (coach). Front Row: Philip Rayner, Martin Knowles, Steven Clark, Alex Araujo, Stanley Paillard, Anthony Simms, Mathew Della Vedova.

St Patrick's Dundas to defend CCC Cup

BY JOHN BULMER

DEFENDING champions Dundas enter 1990 with the happy memory of their 2-0 win in last year's Combined Catholic Colleges Cup.

Runners-up St Peter's Maitland will also fancy their chances in 1990 as they had quite a young team on the park in last year's final.

Entry forms have been sent to the schools and are now due back.

The convenor of the open-age school knockout competition, Mr John Sunderland of St John's College, Dubbo, is expecting a record entry including a big re-

sponse from country Catholic schools.

"Country schools did very well in 1989 and gained great pleasure from the achievements and bearing of their teams.

"Furthermore we are extending an invitation to all Catholic Year 10 Schools for the first time".

Combined Catholic Colleges officials are hoping for a repeat of the clean sweep achieved by the 1989 CCC representative squad: a win in the NSW secondary schools tournament and eleven of the squad touring South America with the NSW All-Schools squad.

Such tours provide a great soccer and personal experience to players with the ability to make it to the highest levels of soccer in Australia.

Recent tourists to make rapid progress include CCC representatives Tony Krslovic (St George) from 1987, and Declan McEvoy (Wollongong), the 1988 CCC squad captain.

Other tourists discover the opportunity of a full-time professional career.

One such player, John Crawley, leaves in March to begin a 12-36 month contract with glamorous Colo Colo in Chile and the chance of a lifetime for the 1989 CCC goalkeeper.



The Australian schoolboys squad which toured the United States and Britain, recording four wins, one draw and two losses. Coach Tom Sermanni is at left and manager Ian Boxsall at right in the back row. Pic: Hector Garrasco.

Big year for referees

1990 will be a big year for soccer referees according to Gladesville Hornsby Soccer Referees' president, Ron Beaumont.

"Last season was very disrupted with wet weather but we hope to have enough referees to cover all games in the district next season", Ron said.

While new members are required in all areas, there is an acute shortage of referees in the Ryde, Meadowbank, Gladesville and Thornleigh areas.

New members are not simply given a book and a whistle, Ron explained.

"There is a definite programme to assist new members and each new referee has an experienced referee allocated to him or her to help throughout the season.

"In addition, there are lectures throughout the season and senior members watch as many new referees as possible to help overcome problems."

The Examination Board, the committee responsible for the

training and development of all referees, is one of the best in Sydney.

Chairperson of the committee is Phil Hafe, who is also the Assistant National Referees' Coach.

In addition, Peter McIntyre is a State League Referee.

Don Sinclair and Tony Ho, both top district referees, have had many years experience training referees.

Others assisting with the development programme include Doug Rennie (National Coach), Keith Lockrey (State Coach) and Gary Power (NSL referee and NSW Soccer Federation Referees' Development Officer).

When allocating fixtures, members' commitments are always taken into account so that it is possible to referee and play or coach.

Members must be at least 14 years old and both men and women are welcome.

The Branch is conducting a special introductory course at Epping Community Centre, Oxford Street, Epping on March 12th and 13th.

The cost is only \$5 and this includes the refereeing law book and refreshments.

Enrolment is necessary and further details can be obtained from Don Sinclair 85 5797 or Tony Ho 872 3701 (7-9pm) or from Phil Hafe (047) 390 5852.

NSW under 16 State trials

TRIALS for players born after the 1st August, 1973 will take place at Valentine Park on the 12th and 19th March, 1990 at 6.15pm.

Those wishing to trial, should contact Lorraine at the NSW Soccer Federation and leave your name, date of birth and phone number.

In other news the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation is seeking a 14 year old age group State team trainer (1990), a 13 year old age group State team trainer (1991), and a 13 year old age group State team manager (1991).

All applicants must have considerable experience and be prepared to attend a camp in July, the National Championships in September, and several trials and training sessions before then.

The positions are the highest that can be attained at the Amateur level, and are sure to provide a great deal of personal satisfaction to the successful applicants.

Applications should be in writing addressed to reach the State Soccer Secretary, NSWASF Ltd, PO Box 175 Toongabbie 2146, by 23 March 1990.

EVERTON VIDEO

FEW clubs can boast the honours Everton have achieved — nine League Championships, four FA Cup victories, and a European Trophy.

During their 100 years in the Football League the Merseyside club has accumulated more points in the First Division than any other team.

Not for nothing, then, is the club known as the "School of Science".

Through a fascinating blend of action and interviews, this video recalls the immortal names and games that have made Everton one of the world's most famous clubs.

"Dixie" Dean, the scoring machine of the 1920s and 30s, Alex Young, the "Golden Vision" of the 1960s; Ball, Kendall and Harvey, the dazzling mid-field trio of the early 1970s.

Plus the stars of the 1980s — players like Peter Reid, Andy Gray and Gary Lineker — all embodiments of the great Everton traditions of style, flair and enterprise.

The great story of a great club, running time 86 minutes.

Available from the office of the NSWASF Ltd, PO Box 175, Toongabbie NSW 2146 at only \$29 including postage.

Also available is the second reprint of the Level 1 Coaching Manual from the same source.

In another marketing initiative, the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation has "World's No 1 Sport" key fobs available at \$5.50 each including postage.

THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE SPORT



The Australian schoolgirls side, who also toured along with the boys. The officials are: l to r: Cliff Mangan, Ian Gill and Brett Green. On the day of the picture Craig Johnston dropped in to convey his good wishes to the tourists.

THE ninth World Cup promised little and produced so much.

It was widely believed that there would be a perpetration and even an extension of the tendencies that had bedevilled world football in the 1960s: negative play, low scores, ruthless tackling, and childish infringements leading to frayed tempers.

Instead, Mexico produced entertainment plus.

Brazil, with a forward line rivalled only by its predecessor in 1958 and Hungary's in 1954, made it perhaps the most memorable of all World Cups.

The finals started with Mexico and the Soviet Union playing a goalless Group 1 draw in the giant Azteca Stadium in Mexico City.

The next day the other sections, caught up.

Group 2, playing at Puebla and Toluca, opened with Uruguay finding little difficulty in beating Israel, conquerors of Australia.

At Guadalajara England took the field against Romania to loud boos from the crowd, whose feelings had not been eased by remarks made by manager Alf Ramsey about the pitch.

The champions got home against a tough defence with a 78th minute goal from Geoff Hurst.

The game at León, between Bulgaria and Peru made up for the others in both goals and drama and was the first hint of a revival of attacking play in World Cup matches, Peru winning 3-2.

The next day involved all groups and produced widely varied matches.

In Group 1 Belgium beat El Salvador 3-0 (including a late penalty) but should have scored a lot more.

Meanwhile, European champions Italy, leaving out Rivera, outclassed a ragged Sweden at Toluca in Group 2, but could manage only one goal, and that came from a goalkeeping error.

In Group 3 a superb attacking display, full of flair and individualism, gave Brazil a 4-1 win in their game against Czechoslovakia, with Pelé really at his best in front of a fiercely supportive Mexican crowd.

As in that game, the underdogs also scored first in the Group 4 match, with Houmane giving Morocco a surprise lead against West Germany before Uwe Seeler and then Gerd Müller relieved a very worried side.

With every team having played one match, only Group 1 had emerged without a clear division of points.

For the next match there the Soviets made four changes and overpowered Belgium 4-1 with strong, simple football.

At Puebla, Uruguay and Italy were playing out what was probably the most uninspired match of the competition, a soulless, goalless draw in which what few chances arose were badly wasted.

In Group 3 Romania beat a Czechoslovakian team that showed five changes. Dumitrache scoring the winner from a penalty, Peru, meantime, beat Morocco 3-0 at León to become — b a r r i n g — the first country to qualify for the quarter-finals.

The matches on the following day produced more goals (14) than any other qualifying day, despite being played at noon.

In the Azteca, Mexico, roared on by a near-hysterical crowd, scored four against El Salvador.

Sweden were expected to atone for the Italian defeat in the match against Israel at Toluca, but could only draw an untidy affair witnessed, appropriately, by fewer than 3,000 people.

The Jalisco Stadium in Guadalajara, by contrast, was packed to its 75,000 capacity for the much-vaunted encounter between Brazil and England.

HISTORY OF THE WORLD CUP (MEXICO 1970)



Pelé and Franz Beckenbauer — key players in the 1970 World Cup.

The result was decided by a second-half Jairzinho goal sparked by the genius of Tostao and Pelé, but England squandered several chances.

For the game with Bulgaria at León, West Germany brought in two specialised wingers, Libuda and Löhr, for 1966 men Haller and Held, and it paid dividends, Müller netting a hat-trick in a 5-2 win.

Then a solid performance by the Soviets took them into the last eight, while El Salvador went out without scoring a goal. At Puebla, Uruguay were content to take it gently against Sweden, knowing they were almost guaranteed of qualification.

They lost 1-0, but were almost certainly safe. In Group 3 Brazil registered maximum points by beating Romania 3-2, Pelé scoring twice.

At León, West Ger-

many beat Peru with Müller, beginning to look as though he might overhaul Just Fontaine's 1958 record of 13 goals, scoring another hat-trick before Teofilo Cubillas replied.

The next day Mexico, Italy, and England joined the other qualifiers.

England had only to draw with Czechoslovakia at Guadalajara to qualify.

As it was, they won 1-0 with a controversial second-half penalty by Allan Clarke, playing in his first full international.

The quarter-finals were really the turning point of the competition, producing 17 goals and one magnificent come-back.

The highest score came at Guadalajara, where Brazil stayed on to meet Peru, and the two most adventurous sides in the competition produced a six-goal thriller.

Brazil were to play Uruguay, who had left it until the 27th minute of extra-time before scoring against the USSR in Mexico City and then with a disputed goal.

Mexico, trailed by thousands of supporters (many of whom could not get into the ground), travelled to Toluca to play Italy. The Italians won 4-1, Riva getting two, but the hosts held their own until well into the second half.

Meantime at León, England and West Germany met in a repeat of the 1966 final.

In extra-time it was Germany who threatened to score, and they did: five minutes into the second period Grabowski crossed to the far post, Löhr nodded back square, and Müller hit a waist-high winner from point-blank range. It was fitting recompense for 1966.

Against Brazil, Uruguay were in command

early on, their tough defence deterring the ball-playing Brazilian forwards, and in the 18th minute they went ahead through Cubilla.

Brazil were rescued, however, when Clodoaldo ran onto a perfect return past from Tostao and beat brilliant goalkeeper Mazurkiewicz.

Brazil changed gear in the second half and first Tostao set up Jairzinho and then in the dying seconds Pelé laid one on for Rivelino to make it safe.

The Azteca, meanwhile, played hosts to Italy and West Germany.

The Germans equalised Boninsegna's ninth minute goal through Schnellinger in the second minute of injury time, and then five goals came in a tense and exciting extra period, with Müller's two goals not enough to save his spirited side.

In the final, Brazil forged ahead in the 18th minute.

Tostao's throw-in on the left was lobbed across by Rivelino, and up went Pelé to head past Italian keeper Albertosi.

But then, in the 37th minute Clodoaldo casually tried a clever back-pass, failed, and Boninsegna pounced on the chance, urging Gigi Riva out of the way and picking his spot to shoot past Felix.

It was a Gerson goal in the 65th minute — a left-footer from the edge of the box that no goalkeeper in the world would have saved — which triggered a display of Brazil's real talents.

From then on it was exhibition football: captain Carlos Alberto's goal three minutes from time — a thundering shot after Pelé, apparently without even looking, had pushed the ball into his stride — was merely of statistical interest.

GROUP 1

MEXICO v USSR	0-0
BELGIUM v EL SALVADOR	3-0
USSR v BELGIUM	4-1
MEXICO v EL SALVADOR	4-0
USSR v EL SALVADOR	2-0
BELGIUM v MEXICO	0-1

POINTS

USSR	3	2	1	0	6	1	5
MEXICO	3	2	1	0	5	0	5
BELGIUM	3	1	0	2	4	5	2
EL SALVADOR	3	0	0	3	0	9	0

GROUP B

URUGUAY v ISRAEL	2-0
ITALY v SWEDEN	1-0
URUGUAY v ITALY	0-0
ISRAEL v SWEDEN	1-1
SWEDEN v URUGUAY	1-0
ISRAEL v ITALY	0-0

POINTS

ITALY	3	1	2	0	1	0	4
URUGUAY	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
SWEDEN	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
ISRAEL	3	0	2	1	1	3	2

GROUP C

ENGLAND v ROMANIA	1-0
BRAZIL v CZECHOSLOVAKIA	4-1
ROMANIA v CZECHOSLOVAKIA	2-1
BRAZIL v ENGLAND	1-0
BRAZIL v ROMANIA	3-2
ENGLAND v CZECHOSLOVAKIA	1-0

POINTS

BRAZIL	3	3	0	0	8	3	6
ENGLAND	3	2	0	1	2	1	4
ROMANIA	3	1	0	2	4	5	2
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

GROUP D

PERU v BULGARIA	3-2
WEST GERMANY v MOROCCO	2-1
PERU v MOROCCO	3-0
WEST GERMANY v BULGARIA	5-2
WEST GERMANY v PERU	3-1
BULGARIA v MOROCCO	1-1

POINTS

WEST GERMANY	3	3	0	0	10	4	6
PERU	3	2	0	1	7	5	4
BULGARIA	3	0	1	2	5	9	1
MOROCCO	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

QUARTER-FINALS

URUGUAY v USSR	1-0
ITALY v MEXICO	4-1
BRAZIL v PERU	4-2
WEST GERMANY v ENGLAND	3-2

SEMI-FINALS

ITALY v WEST GERMANY	4-3
BRAZIL v URUGUAY	3-1

PLAY-OFF 3RD PLACE

WEST GERMANY v URUGUAY	1-0
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FINAL

BRAZIL v ITALY	4-1
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LEADING SCORER: Gerd Muller (West Germany) 10.

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WE STILL HAVE A FEW PACKAGES LEFT.

**STADIUM TICKETS
GROUP DEPARTURES
26th MAY 2nd JUNE**





Bologna goalkeeper Cusin tangles with Lothar Matthaus of Inter Milan in the Italian League.

United they fall

BY MIKE TICHER



IT'S becoming something of an outdated cliché to say that Manchester United are the most famous club side in the world.

The three great teams built by Sir Matt Busby in the 1950s and 1960s are long gone, and no modern-day equivalent has arisen to take their place. After sporadic successes in the 80s (two FA Cup wins), United have begun the 90s starting only at the prospect of relegation from the First Division.

A run of 11 games without a win in the middle of the season, which dropped them to 17th place in the table was only the latest in a series of disasters which have plagued the Old Trafford club this year.

First came the injury to big-money signing Neil Webb, before he had played even a handful of games for the club.

Then came a traumatic 5-1 defeat at the hands of intense local rivals Manchester City in September.

Humiliation on the field was compounded by embarrassment off it, when the prospective takeover of the club by young property tycoon Michael Knighton fell through as he failed to raise sufficient finance — this after he had paraded himself on the pitch at Old Trafford and proclaimed the start of a 'New Era'.

Dismal

Perhaps even more interesting than United's dismal form on the pitch, however, are the reasons why they have lost their enormous popularity in English soccer as a whole, and are now as widely disliked by the soccer public as they once were adored.

This change in attitude can be traced back to the early 1970s, and the departure of Matt

Busby as manager.

With Busby gone from centre-stage, the last link with the 1958 Munich air crash was broken, and it was this event more than any other which inspired the sentimental attachment of so many to United.

With Busby went the remnants of his last great team, the one which won the European Cup in 1968.

Bobby Charlton retired in 1973, George Best succumbed to the pressures of huge fame and a wayward lifestyle, and Denis Law returned only to score the goal for Manchester City which condemned United to relegation in 1974.

Their one-season stay in Second Division was to create a completely new image of Manchester United, as their fans caused mayhem at grounds all around the country at the height of the English hooligan problem.

In more recent years, further factors have alienated United from the rest of football.

Their popularity with the TV companies, particularly since the start of live coverage in the mid-80s has left many people (including, it must be said, United fans themselves) feeling sick of the sight of them.

All too often their performances have abjectly failed to justify their big billing and the lavish attention showered on to them by the media in general.

Secondly, the enormous sums of money spent by United in trying to achieve success has become something of an obscenity.

This season alone they have splashed out on Gary Pallister (2.3 million pounds, from Middlesbrough), Neil Webb (1.5 million, Nottingham Forest), Danny Wallace (1.2 million, Southampton), Paul Ince (800,000, West Ham)

and Michael Phelan (750,000, Norwich City).

Small wonder that manager Alex Ferguson's pleas that he has not been able to select his strongest team due to injuries receive a less than sympathetic hearing!

United built their reputation on players brought through the club's superb youth team, and given the chance to perform at the earliest possible age.

Their dependence now on hugely expensive stars bought from other clubs is an obvious reason for the decline in their status in the eyes of most neutrals.

Not alone

It's true that United are not alone in this respect — Liverpool, Everton, Arsenal, Tottenham and others have also spent ridiculous sums.

The difference is that, with the exception of Spurs, they have all won the League at least once in the last five years. United's last success was as long ago as 1967.

Together with these clubs, United have used their wealth and power to encourage speculation of a Super League, which would leave smaller clubs out in the cold.

It is for this arrogant stance, above all, that so many people would now delight in seeing United relegated themselves.

It would confirm the belief that the health of the League lies in its unpredictability, and not

simply in the drawing power of the top clubs.

Most worrying of all for United is the fact that even their own fans are now deserting them.

Attendances last year averaged 'only' 36,000, and this year some home games have already attracted less than 30,000.

While other clubs would revel in such figures, for Manchester United they represent a crisis of major proportions.

The constant pressure on United to live up to their past, the endless boardroom battles which attract only adverse publicity and the rock-bottom public image of both chairman Martin Edwards and manager Alex Ferguson have all helped to create the air of disillusion which now hangs over Old Trafford.

A return to the values instilled by Busby seems the only solution, but his way are no longer United's ways.

Money talks everywhere in football these days, but nowhere louder than at Old Trafford.

While that remains the case, United will never recapture the hearts of the football public, no matter how much success they could buy.

At the moment, even that tarnished dream looks totally unattainable.

Charlton confident violence will recede

ENGLISH soccer idol Bobby Charlton says one of the biggest problems facing soccer today, hooliganism, could touch the World Cup.

But he said the problem of violent, unruly fans is "getting better in England", where it started.

"We don't have problems inside the grounds," he said recently. "The problem is when the fans travel."

"It's like terrorists. How can you tell when they're going to show up?" he said.

The World Cup finals, starting in June in Italy, could be the scene of a new wave of hooliganism, said Charlton, who was the guiding force of the English team that won the 1966 World Cup at Wembley, England.

"It's bad wherever



BOBBY CHARLTON

England goes these days. The Italian youth will be looking for them.

"A lot of work will be done and maybe it won't be as bad as we think. But you're very naive if you think there will be no trouble."

Banning standing room and making stadiums all-seating would

kill a long tradition, especially in England, but it does not necessarily solve the problem with hooliganism, Charlton says.

"It doesn't stop trouble because you put them on a seat," he says. "It just makes it a little bit more difficult. It doesn't alter the person himself. But it could prevent another Hillsborough. That wouldn't happen anymore if there were all all-seaters."

FIFA decided last year to ban standing room at all World Cup matches. The 1992 European Championship in Sweden is also expected to be held in stadiums with all-seating.

FIFA's decision came after the April 15 disaster at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield, England, in which 95 fans in a standing-room section were crushed to death during an FA Cup semi-final.

Charlton was visiting Stockholm as a spokesman for MasterCard, one of the World Cup sponsors.

— courtesy AP

Dinamo Bucharest will keep name

DINAMO Bucharest won't have to change their name after all.

The Romanian Ministry of Sports voted against renaming the club Unirea Tricolor — its pre-World War II name — after receiving a petition signed by thousands of club supporters who claimed the players were not involved with the hated secret police which ran the club under the regime of former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

While on the subject of Romanian soccer, Steaua Bucharest have handed over the 1988 Romanian Cup trophy to Dinamo.

The final had been abandoned after Steaua left the field when it had a goal disallowed.

Under FIFA rules, Dinamo should have been awarded the game — and the trophy — but the Romanian Federation, under instructions from Valentin Ceausescu, son of the former president, the trophy was awarded to Steaua!



You go your way, I'll go mine... Liverpool full-back Steve Burrowes (left) gives his opponent the slip as the Reds knock Southampton out of the FA Cup

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY — MARCH 7, 1990 23

THE SOUTH AMERICAN SCENE

WITH MARIO ETCHART

CARLOS Salvador Bilardo, coach of the Argentine national team, the current world title holder, announced 15 players for their tour of Scotland and Spain between the 28th of March and the 4th of April.

The players confirmed are Pumpido, Sensini, Caniggia, Basualdo, Maradona, Dezotti, Troglia, Ruggeri, Bauza, Burruchaga, Baldo, Valdano, Simon, Batista and Olarticoechea.

Other players under Bilardo's consideration are Monzon, Fabbri, Falcioni, Pasculli, Goycochea, Calderon, Gorosito, Simeone and Alfaro Moreno.

Chile's Universidad Catolica won the Pre-Libertadores league to qualify for the major tournament at club level in South America.

Catolica defeated Cobreloa 4-1 in the final of the league played at Santiago's Estadio Nacional.

Universidad Catolica joins Chilean champion Colo Colo in group 3 to play their first elimination round against Peruvians Union Huaral and Universitario.

In their first match in the Libertadores Cup's Group 4, Uruguayan champion Progreso and Defensor Sporting drew 0-0, while in Venezuela, in the same group,



JORGE VALDANO

Mineros beat Pezaran 1-0 to lead the group.

In Los Angeles, Colombia won the Marlboro Cup for the fourth time after a 1-0 win over Mexico club Chivas de Guadalajara. Colombian striker Alex Mendoza scored the winning goal in the 53rd minute.

For third place, the Soviet Union defeated Costa Rica 2-1.

Colombia reached the final after a victory over the Soviet Union through a penalty shoot-out.

In a friendly international, also played in Los Angeles, the

USSR beat the United States 3-1. The Soviets played without nine regular internationals.

The oldest club in Chilean soccer, Santiago Wanderers, won promotion to First Division after a 1-0 victory over San Felipe and will accompany the Second Division champion, Universidad de Chile, another club with a long and brilliant history, into Division One.

Uruguayan national coach Oscar Tavaréz has denied rumors of future links with Italian club Lazio, and made clear that his mind is with the Uruguayan squad that will be competing in the World Cup next June.

Undisclosed sources from Italy stated that Tavaréz will coach Lazio next season and that his salary will be in the vicinity of \$500,000 a month.

"I'm surprised by the news. Nobody approached me in the past and any suggestion of my involvement with the club is unfounded", said the Uruguayan coach.



MARCO VAN BASTEN

DO you have a burning desire to watch the world's biggest soccer stars in action in a World Cup final?

Well, now you can, thanks to the Gillette Company, the global corporation that boasts the marketing slogan 'The Best a Man Can Get'.

Gillette International, one of FIFA's major sponsors of the World Cup, last week launched its 'Be There In Rome... For The Final' competition. Gillette invites all

ASW readers to enter this magnificent competition appearing at the base of this page.

Here is a chance of a lifetime to go to Italy and watch the major World Cup matches FREE.

There are two double tickets to be won.

A winner will be selected from a soccer club associated member, and another from the general Gillette consumer entries.

You must not miss this unforgettable opportunity to watch the world's greatest soccer stars do battle in in

Italy for their countries, megastars of the calibre of Marco van Basten, Diego Maradona, Gary Lineker, John Barnes, Jurgen Klinsmann, Andreas Brehme, Enzo Francescoli, Carcena and Emilio Butragueno, just to name a few.

Be there to see them all as they fight it out for sport's most prestigious trophy.

Entry forms are available where Gillette products are sold, or via your soccer club throughout Australia.

The 'Gillette World Cup Special' series will be screened on the Channel 10 network between now and June.

The lucky winners will be entertained by the Gillette Company's 'Hospitality Event'.

"Hospitality Event"

Mon 2nd July.

Arrive in Rome to a special 'Welcome Fantasia Italiana' in the evening at The Sheraton Roma.

Tues 3rd July.

Option 1. Tour to Pompeii, lunch, semi-finals in Naples. Option 2. Day in.

Wed 4th July.

In the morning sightseeing tour of Rome and later in the afternoon departure to Tivoli and Villa Adriana, followed by a sumptuous dinner.

Thurs 5th July.

Option 1, a full day tour of Florence with lunch at leisure and dinner at Orvieto. Option 2 is to take a shuttle bus to the centre of Rome. Dinner at the Quattro Fiumi and Trescatini Restaurants in Piazza Navona.

Fri 6th July.

Free Day to take shuttle bus to centre of Rome. Gala dinner at Castello Di Bracciano.

Sat 7th July.

Option 1 is a tour of Sistine Chapel and Catacombs. Option 2 involves taking a shuttle bus to centre of Rome. Roman banquet at The Sheraton in the evening.

Sun 8th July.

Free morning. Mass at St Peter's. Late lunch barbeque at The Sheraton. Go and watch the World Cup Final at the magnificent Olympic Stadium Rome.

Mon 9th July.

Prepare for your departure from Italy for your flight back to Australia.

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MONDAY, 2ND JULY

Arrival. Welcome Fantasia Italiana evening at The Sheraton Roma.

TUESDAY, 3RD JULY

Option 1. Tour to Pompeii, lunch, semi-finals in Naples.

Option 2. Day in Rome.

WEDNESDAY, 4TH JULY

Morning sightseeing tour of Rome.

Late afternoon departure to Tivoli and Villa Adriana, followed by dinner.

THURSDAY, 5TH JULY

Option 1. Full day tour to Florence with lunch at leisure and dinner at Orvieto.

Option 2. Shuttle buses to centre of Rome.

Dinner at Quattro Fiumi and Trescatini restaurants in Piazza Navona.

FRIDAY, 6TH JULY

Free day. Shuttle buses to centre of Rome.

Gala dinner at Castello Di Bracciano.

SATURDAY, 7TH JULY

Option 1. Tour of Sistine Chapel and Catacombs.

Option 2. Shuttle Buses to centre of Rome.

Roman banquet at The Sheraton.

SUNDAY, 8TH JULY

Free morning. Mass at St. Peter's.

Late lunch barbeque at The Sheraton.

The final - Olympic Stadium, Rome.

MONDAY, 9TH JULY

Departure.

PLUS 100 Other prizes of Size 5 Kookaburra Cosmos Deluxe Soccer Balls. See over for details. COMPETITION CLOSING 13TH APRIL 1990

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. There is no limit to the number of entries. However, each entry must be on an official entry form and contain the correct Gillette pack.
2. Any entry that does not comply with these conditions of entry shall not be a valid entry. Information on how to enter and prizes forms part of these conditions of entry.
3. All entrants must be residents of Australia and a member or supporter of a soccer club/association in Australia. To be eligible, each entrant must nominate the name and address of their soccer club/association. Employees and their immediate families of Gillette (Aust) Pty Limited, their associated companies, advertising and sales promotions agencies are not eligible to enter or to receive any prizes.
4. Prize draw will take place in Sydney on Monday 16th April, 1990. The entrant named in the first valid entry drawn will win a 10 day holiday for 2 to Italy. Prize consists of economy airfares for 2 from the state capital nearest the winner to Italy and return, meals, 7 nights luxury accommodation, airport transfers in Italy, organised sight-seeing events, double tickets to the soccer semi-final in Naples and the final in Rome, and tips in Italy. Personal expenses such as passports, visas, insurance, health requirements, spending money and all other ancillary costs are the responsibility of the winner. Travel prize valued at approximately \$14,332. Entrants named in the next 100 valid entries drawn will each win a Size 5 Kookaburra Cosmos Deluxe Soccer Ball. RRP \$29.95 each.
5. The winning entrant's soccer club will receive a cheque for \$3,000. In the event that the club is located in Queensland, the prize will be awarded as gold bullion to the nearest value in the absolute discretion of the promoter.
6. Travel prize must be taken between July 1st, 1990 and July 10th, 1990.
7. All winners will be notified by mail and the first prize winner's name will be published in the Public Notices column of The Australian on Friday 27th April, 1990.
8. Prizes are not transferable or exchangeable and cannot be taken as cash.
9. The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. No responsibility for lost or misdirected mail will be accepted by the promoter, Gillette (Aust) Pty Limited, of 504-520 Princes Highway, Noble Park, Victoria, 3174.
10. NSW Permit No TC89/3485. Raffles and Bingo Permits Board No 89/2398 issued on 30/11/89. ACT Permit No 1989/1393 issued under the Lotteries Ordinance Act, 1964. NT 0537/89.

HERE'S ALL YOU DO

Simply fill out your name and address below and attach a bar code from any Gillette Blade, Razor or Disposable shaver pack to the entry form and send to: Gillette 'The Best a Man Can Get-Italia '90 Kick Off' Soccer Clubs Competition

PO Box 23

North Lidcombe NSW 2141

South Australian residents need not purchase the product to enter but may instead send in a hand drawn facsimile of any Gillette Blade, Razor or Disposable shaver pack. Only one entry per person permitted by this method in South Australia.

Name

Address

Postcode

Name of Soccer Club/Association

Address of Soccer Club/Association

Postcode

COMPETITION CLOSING 13TH APRIL 1990

GWS/ASW